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Israel Sees Wide Plot in Rabin Assassination



The Associated Press
The police taking Obad Skornik, center, into court Thursday in Tel Aviv.

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Five days after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the police said Thursday that they had arrested two more people for the killing and that they believed the murder was a conspiracy organized by a group of Israelis fired to extremism by Mr. Rabin's determination to trade biblical land for peace.

The police suspensions directly contradict the assertions of the confessed assassin, Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old law student, that he acted alone.

The police also said they uncovered a large cache of weapons that included enough grenades, detonators, explosives and fuses "to make any terror group proud." The weapons were hidden, they said, underneath a yard that served as part of a nursery school run by Mr. Amir's mother at their hotel in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv.

The arrests of the two new suspects — both apparently young associates of Mr. Amir's — brought to five the number of people detained since Mr. Rabin was shot to death minutes after he addressed a huge peace rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday night.

The two men are Dror Adani, 26, whom

the police said they suspected of complicity in the conspiracy, and Obad Skornik, 23, a fellow law student with Mr. Amir at the Bar-Ilan religious university. He was suspected of failing to prevent a crime by reporting what he knew of the alleged plot to the police.

Mr. Amir's brother, Hagai, was arrested soon after the killing and Avishai Raviv, the leader of the far-right group Eyal was arrested Wednesday.

"We believe that there was a conspiracy between a group of persons that had the infrastructure to prepare their aims quite cautiously," said Eric Bar-Chen, a police spokesman.

The group had "some sort of organizational structure," he said, and could turn out to be quite separate from previously known organizations, such as the shadowy Eyal group that Mr. Raviv leads.

"It doesn't mean we are talking about an Eyal-organized crime," Mr. Bar-Chen said.

The minister of police, Moshe Shahal, said that "without the infrastructure supplied to him by other persons, it would have been impossible" for Mr. Amir to become prime minister. He said the conspirators

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Old Enemies Confront The Legacy Of Tonkin

By Tim Larimer
New York Times Service

HANOI — In a remarkable meeting of two old adversaries, General Vo Nguyen Giap told Robert S. McNamara, the former U.S. defense secretary, on Thursday that an attack on a U.S. destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin — an incident that led to the first American bombing of the Vietnam War — never occurred.

Mr. McNamara, on his first visit to Vietnam since the war, raised the question about the Tonkin Gulf incident during the one-hour meeting with his former foe.

"To this day," Mr. McNamara said, "I don't know what happened on Aug. 2 and Aug. 4, 1964, in the Tonkin Gulf."

On Aug. 4, General Giap said, "There was absolutely nothing."

The incident was a critical milestone in the war. President Lyndon Johnson ordered retaliatory air strikes. And three days later, the U.S. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which the Johnson and Nixon administrations both used as the authority to escalate the war.

The first attack on Aug. 2 did in fact occur, said General Giap, confirming most historical accounts.

He added that a "local coast guard unit launched the attack" on the U.S. destroyer, the Maddox, which he said had entered North Vietnam's territorial waters. He did not elaborate whether he himself or other higher authorities had ordered the attack or whether the local unit was acting on its own.

The second alleged attack, on Aug. 4, has continued to puzzle war historians. On Aug. 4, in stormy weather, the Maddox reported it was under attack again. But the reliability of that report has always been questioned. Mr. McNamara, for his part, has said that second attack was "probable but not certain."

On Thursday, Mr. McNamara said: "This was such a red hot issue, I was determined I was going to put the question to Giap today." After hearing the general's response, Mr. McNamara said he is now "99 and ninety-nine hundredths percent sure it didn't occur."

"Giap is a pretty damned good source," he said.

The exchange between the two war strategists highlighted Mr. McNamara's visit with a Council on Foreign Relations delegation. The council has proposed sponsoring a conference to investigate the "missed opportunities" of the war that could have ended the conflict sooner — or avoided it altogether.

"It's an extraordinary thing," Mr. McNamara said in an interview, describing his visit. One of the "interesting points" he said was "the lack of hostility and the willingness to meet and discuss what was in a very real sense a tragedy for both nations."

Both he and General Giap, he added, want to explore the misunderstandings that exacerbated the conflict.

The contrast between the two Vietnam



General Giap leaving the meeting Thursday with Mr. McNamara, who noted the "lack of hostility" in their talks.

For Clinton and Dole et al, A Major Threat Is Sidelined

By R.W. Apple Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — It was a great day for Bill Clinton and a very good day for Bob Dole, but of course, that was not what was on Colin L. Powell's mind as he made his momentous decision not to seek elective office this year.

"During the book tour," a friend said, "he would get turned on by the crowds, but then he would come home and say, 'It's just not me.' Again and again. He tried, tried, tried to feel the passion, but he didn't."

Last weekend, with the general already leaning strongly against running, the as

NEWS ANALYSIS

sassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel helped solidify the decision, the friend said, "especially for Alma," although both Powells denied it. But General Powell's wife, Alma, and his three children all eventually voted "no."

General Powell was careful not to rule out the possibility of running for president four years hence. Several associates said they thought a campaign in the year 2000 was possible if not probable.

"The future is the future," the general told reporters.

General Powell may well come under intense pressure to accept the vice-presidential nomination next fall, despite his

disclaimers on Wednesday. If he changed his mind under such pressure, he would not be the first to do so. No one ever made more fervent disclaimers than Lyndon B. Johnson, but when John F. Kennedy turned to him in Los Angeles in the summer of 1960, he yielded.

Jack F. Kemp, the housing secretary in the Bush administration, spoke for many in political Washington when he said that General Powell's decision had left him "more than a little disappointed and leaves America and the GOP more than a little diminished."

General Powell, now an officially announced Republican, promised to work actively in the Republican Party and to seek to broaden its appeal, and it is hard to imagine that he will not be asked to deliver a keynote address or the equivalent at the party's convention in San Diego next summer. That would help to send a more inclusive message than the Republicans sent from Houston in 1992.

Mr. Clinton's aides spent much of the day insisting that General Powell's decision was of no great moment to them or their boss. But of course it mattered. To say otherwise was merely to observe one of the conventions of politics: Never suggest that you are afraid of a rival.

Now Mr. Clinton faces a race against either Mr. Dole, whom he consistently

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Andorra	10.00 FF Luxembourg...65 L Fr
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France	10.00 FF Saudi Arabia...10.00 R
Gabon	1100 CFA Senegal...1.100 CFA
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By Philip Shonan
New York Times Service

BANGKOK — His title is as long as it is exalted: Great King of Siam, the Chief Protector, Great Strength of the Land, Incomparable Power, the Most Renowned of the Mahidol Family and Refuge of the People.

But as King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand has reminded his devoted subjects, he is also a citizen of this troubled Asian land — one with a right to speak his mind when something is wrong.

Increasingly, the king, 67, who is the world's longest-serving living monarch and who is about to lead the nation in celebration of his 50th year on the throne, is doing just that: speaking up.

"The king has a right to make political remarks," he

said in justifying a rare royal intervention into politics several weeks ago. "He is a Thai citizen and has his rights and freedoms under the constitution. Each of you is under the constitution, and so is the king. I am using my freedom under the constitution."

Then he let the politicians have it. At a gathering of ambassadors, he reprimanded the civilian government of Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa, suggesting that it was failing to deal with a traffic crisis that is threatening to halt transport around Bangkok, the capital, and has smoothed the city beneath a perpetual rust-colored haze.

The politicians, he said, "keep talking, talking, talking, and they keep opposing each other."

Jaws dropped as the king spoke, so rare is that sort of criticism from the traditionally reticent monarch. And such is his influence among his subjects that Mr. Banharn

is widely reported to have panicked when he heard about the king's remarks, calling his advisers into emergency session to reassess his traffic policy.

Although King Bhumibol is a constitutional monarch with few clearly defined powers, he is without doubt the most beloved figure in Thailand, treated with god-like reverence by most of his 58 million subjects.

"He is the unifying force of the Thai society," said Suchit Bunbongkarn, a prominent political scientist. "He is the one who is a check on the system. He can tell us whether we are going in the right direction or the wrong direction. He is the standard of morality, of righteousness."

The king spends most of his time overseeing hundreds

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The UN Rights Mission/ Finn Takes Up the Challenge

A Maverick Wades Into Ex-Yugoslavia's Miasma

By Nora Boustan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It was cold and the snow was taller than Elisabeth Rehn when the 56-year-old stood stiffly to honor young men who had come back in coffins to her village of Mansala on the Finnish shore. When her father would return home on furlough from the war, she could not hold back her tears. She couldn't understand then why she cried when she wanted to be happy.

Mrs. Rehn, who went on to become Finland's defense minister, a member of the European Parliament and now human rights investigator for the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia, has never forgotten how fast her heart was beating.

"Just the feeling that something is not as it should be" is how she describes it. Anchored in her conscience is a resolve that "it is very important that one should do something for those who are suffering."

Mrs. Rehn, 50, recently spent a week in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is ravaged by the worst fighting and atrocities in Europe since World War II. She kicked a ball with children who smile with sad eyes, children who have had to give up their kindergartens and soccer fields to play in graveyards.

And she listened to tales of suffering. A paralyzed woman in her 70s, who had been left behind in Krajina, Croatia, because she could not flee, showed Mrs. Rehn a bullet hole in her window. Two Croatian soldiers came shouting, "Do you have guns? Open the door, where is your son?" she told Mrs. Rehn. They shot when she failed to get up, then they stormed in and dragged her across the floor. The woman took Mrs. Rehn's face in her frail hands and whispered that Mrs. Rehn would make a difference with her reports to the world.

Along the road, a 75-year-old man told of how he was forced to run naked at gunpoint for 4½ miles (7 kilometers) with his hands bound behind his back.

"I got angry and I felt ashamed. I was ashamed because I was European," Mrs. Rehn said. "The children will survive, of course, but after a long life, these old people did everything right and now they see this happening to them."

Mrs. Rehn looks outside the window of the limousine taking her to Airlie, Virginia, where she began a U.S. speaking tour last week.

She will file her first report on Nov. 24 to the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights; nine people are helping her compile the information.

She made it clear to everyone she met in Yugoslavia, even those who refused to receive her predecessor, that she had no friends and no enemies and no favorites. "It is up to them, of course," she said. "If they want to commit crimes against humanity, then I have to report on that."

When the UN Commission on Human Rights told her she had been selected for the job, Mrs. Rehn felt weak in the knees. Before she responded, she thought about her lifelong commitments, her ideals. "You know, if you have been talking about human rights, the dignity of men and women and the rights of the child," she said, "and you refuse the real possibility to do something about it because it is too difficult, you are not at all credible. So I said O.K. Of course, I can't be sure that writing reports, trying to explain and tell will be enough. But I am very much of a terrier and I plan to bother the peace negotiators."

While Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian leaders meet in Dayton, Ohio, to settle the disputed territories, she will push for the protection of human rights as a condition for settlement at the negotiating table. She has spoken with the European negotiator Carl Bildt and is planning to contact Assistant Secretary of State Richard C. Holbrooke, the chief U.S. negotiator.

In between the speaking engagements, meetings at the United Nations in New York and her report deadline, she will return to Brussels to resume her duties as a member of the European Parliament.

Mrs. Rehn is a maverick by Finnish standards and she has not shied away from challenging her own political party's ideas or plunging into daredevil missions. As defense minister, she once drove her generals into a flustered frenzy when she proposed crashing their sauna gab sessions. Seeing their reaction, she asked: "Do you have something to hide?" Her ministry has not kept her from driving snow scooters on her 60th birthday or looping and flying upside down with the Blue Angels show pilots.

Mrs. Rehn was catapulted from her household, her children's schooling and husband's furniture business to Finland's Parliament when she beat 27 contenders for her seat in the late 1970s. She moved on to become her country's longest-serving defense minister, four and a half years.

"She is a soft-looking and a soft-spoken person, but she has will power, an enormous curiosity and a capacity to digest what she learns about areas where she has never treaded," said a former aide. There is steel inside the packaging and a burning desire to outdo the



For Elisabeth Rehn, "It is important to do something for those who are suffering."

disappointed men she leaves behind her, one aide explains. "And she is admired for that, another adds.

Mrs. Rehn's rivals in her minority, liberal-centrist Swedish People's Party had thought they could outmaneuver her by naming her defense minister for an interim period in 1990. "They thought nothing serious can happen in eight months if we name a woman as defense minister," she says. "They thought I would not succeed, they would get rid of me. I got quite popular."

She added: "Absolutely everything happened: Desert Storm, the Soviet Union collapsed, the Baltics gained independence, and I renewed the thinking in the country about defense. No one could avoid me anymore."

She built bridges with the international community. She became friends with her American and Russian counterparts. She has played host to former U.S. defense secretary, Dick Cheney, and his wife, Lynne, in Lapland.

She used her persuasiveness to purchase U.S. F/A-18 fighter planes in 1991. The \$4

billion order over 10 years amounted to twice Finland's annual defense budget at the time.

In presidential elections last year, she finished second, with 46 percent of the national vote.

She was leading the race, in fact, until she was asked during a televised interview whether anyone had the intellectual right to doubt that Jesus existed. She said yes. Her faith was questioned and her blunt analysis became scandalous front page news. Her aides said she had walked into a trap.

Mrs. Rehn will not say whether she will run again, but she is a survivor. She's had a brush with two with death, including a miraculous escape during a Cessna plane crash. She suffered two fractures in her back. She has also dealt with intestinal cancer. It was eradicated.

"I am a fatalist," she said. "Someone told me when I was appointed rapporteur that the fact that I survived this serious illness and the crash had a meaning. There was a mission in my life now. Perhaps it is so. It was not my turn to go."

Rehn Steels Herself For Equal Disdain

Elisabeth Rehn, special rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights for the former Yugoslavia, spoke in Washington recently to Brian Knowlton of the International Herald Tribune.

Q. What should the human rights priorities be for the Bosnia peace talks in Dayton, Ohio?

A. First, free and safe access for those refugees who really want to return — and not everybody wants to return. I consider the situation of the POWs quite important. There should be fair exchanges, supervised by the Red Cross.

And I'm especially concerned about the Banja Luka situation. That is something that must not, cannot, lead to anything like Srebrenica. There is, absolutely, a risk that something like this could happen.

Q. Some people say Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, is a war criminal and should have been barred from Dayton.

A. Perhaps it's better for me not to mention particular people now because it's very important for me to be received in the future by all parties. My predecessor, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, was denied access to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to Pale. He had to write his reports in the airport, as someone nastily put it. If I do my job right, someone said, I will be equally hated by everyone.

Q. Is there a formal channel for you to have input in Dayton?

A. I don't have any specific role, and that was something that frustrated Mazowiecki very much — that whatever he reported, nothing happened. I believe I have a much better chance of succeeding than he had, in part because he started from zero and I can build on his marvelous work.

Q. There was some feeling the details of the Srebrenica massacre came out too slowly from the UN. Do you agree?

A. Absolutely. Reports should come very quickly.

Q. Were the Dutch peacekeepers at fault for what happened in Srebrenica, or was it beyond their control?

A. This whole thing with the safe havens was a disaster. If such things are to be created, they should be protected.

The Dutch didn't get the air protection they asked for. And it's obvious that the command was not efficient. I can't put blame on the individual soldiers. It's easy to sit in your comfortable chair in front of the television screen watching those miserable things happening and have absolutely the right opinion on how you should behave. But when you are there, you are quite alone. Even a soldier has a right to be a little hit afraid.

Q. When the war's over and all the facts come out, do you think we will learn of many more massacres we don't yet know about?

A. Unfortunately, yes, and that will be my mission, to try to find out. I told the Bosnian Serb authorities in Pale that sooner or later these things are bound to come to the surface, what really happened, and it would be better for you that they come out sooner. That way we can look forward instead of back.

Q. You will focus as well on accounting for the missing?

A. Mothers of missing people came to me in Vukovar with a list of 2,000 names and asked me to forward it to the Serbian authorities. They don't have revenge in mind. They only want to know what happened to their husband or their son.

A Stalin Museum for the Worshipful

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

GORI, Georgia — Time has stopped in the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. Perhaps the hands of the clock are still in his grasp, for the mighty forces of change that have swept through his Soviet empire have yet to penetrate the citadel of his memory.

In the late 1980s, as glasnost and perestroika began to lay bare the bloodiest of Stalin's excesses, there was talk of correcting the record at the Stalin State Museum here. There was talk of acknowledging some of Stalin's victims. As recently as two years ago, plans were being laid for a museum souvenir shop that would sell Stalin memorabilia in keeping with the free-market mood of the times.

But like so many things across the vast and timeless former Soviet landscape, inertia prevailed. At the Stalin Museum, nothing much happened. Indeed, the only difference is that the museum's worshipful exhibits, remade for safekeeping to Austria during years of post-Soviet civil strife in Georgia, have now been put back on display at a time when more and more people are talking nostalgically about the good old days under communism.

Stalin's boyhood home, a single-room cabin where he was born Josef Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, remains un-

touched under the pavilion built in 1937 to protect it. The adjacent baroque museum was opened in 1957 — Stalin died in 1953 — and the exhibits were updated in 1979. Stalin's personal armored railroad car, with its pre-Revolution mahogany luxury compartments and extra set of wheels, remains parked on the grounds.

Stalin's role in the Bolshevik Revolution and the years immediately after is portrayed as second in importance only to that of Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state. But there is hardly a mention, and not a single photograph, of Leon Trotsky, a central figure in the revolution, who was forced into exile and murdered in 1940 by Stalin's agents.

The onset of World War II is depicted with photos of brave Soviet soldiers rushing to the front. Nothing is said about the secret prewar protocols between Hitler and Stalin that divided up Poland and the Baltic states, or of Stalin's panic as Nazi troops neared Moscow in 1941, or of his purge a few years earlier that wiped out a generation of army officers.

Nor is there a word about the Great Terror — the arrests, torture and executions of suspect Communist Party officials and others in the 1930s. Even the display covering Stalin's personal life manages to skip over unpleasant details such as the suicide of his second wife, Nadezhda.

Nunu Jojoishvili, a guide at the museum for 17 years, said that when the exhibits were removed for safekeeping in 1991, "we talked about making changes in the history of the 1930s, but nothing has been changed so far." She took a pointer and showed a visitor the one critical item on display in the entire museum: the text of

Another exhibit deals with the period of Soviet agricultural collectivization. A photo depicts an 11-year-old girl. Mam-

lakhat Nakhangova, receiving an award from Stalin for picking cotton. Another shows a beaming woman tractor driver. But there is no word about his brutal suppression of the prosperous pre-Soviet peasants known as kolkhoz or of the millions of people who died in the subsequent famine.

ZhuZhuna Khinchikashvili, as the museum's "scientific secretary" is responsible for verifying information in the displays, acknowledged that some of Stalin's victims were later "rehabilitated," but she said the museum was not prepared to document that just yet.

"There were many real enemies in 1937, not just innocent people," she said. "We want to collect objective information."

The museum is selling one souvenir, however — a picture pamphlet for about 50 cents. The pamphlet includes a sentence that reads: "During J.V. Stalin's period in office, especially in the second half of the '30s, blatant violations of the law, resulting in massive unfounded repressions, took place in the Soviet Union."

It does not say who carried them out.

Correction

Because of a transmission error, the number of Chinese works of art from a single owner collection sold by Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct. 31 was incorrectly given in the Nov. 4-5 issue. The correct figure is 16.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Strikes Disrupt 3 European Airlines

PARIS (AFP) — Strikes disrupted flights on three major European airlines Thursday, with workers for Air France, Iberia and Scandinavian Airlines System taking action over a variety of grievances.

In Paris, the first day of a 72-hour strike by cabin crew cut Air France services by 20 percent Thursday, while 30 percent of flights by domestic carrier Air Inter were canceled, officials said.

Meanwhile pilots of the Spanish carrier Iberia started a two-day stoppage, which the company said would mean cancellation of 60 percent of its flights on Thursday, or 247 out of a total of 424. In Stockholm, SAS said a strike by cabin staff, also due to last two days, would mean that 50 percent of intra-European flights, affecting an estimated 15,000 people, would have to be canceled.

Eurotunnel to Reduce Franc Rates

PARIS (AFP) — Eurotunnel, which operates the Channel tunnel from Calais, France, to Dover, England, will reduce return fares in French francs for automobiles slightly next year but prices in pounds will rise by 1 percent, the company said on Thursday.

Meanwhile, a study by a former consultant to the company implied that salvation for the deeply indebted company lies in an aggressive fare policy to undercut ferry companies' prices.

The return fare over five days for cars carried by trains running between the Channel would range from 650 francs to 1,330 francs, or about £84 to £173, a spokesman for Eurotunnel said. The company is negotiating with bankers in order to remain solvent.

Breathing could be hazardous to health in parts of Hong Kong on Friday, with the air pollution index reaching very high levels, especially in areas with heavy construction, the Environmental Protection Department said Thursday. (AP)

A small regional carrier will be challenging Alitalia on the profitable Rome-Milan route, offering five round-trip flights daily at a price 20 percent lower than the national carrier, Air One, which until now offered service only between Milan and a handful of southern cities, will begin service Nov. 23, the airline announced Thursday. (AP)

Tourist arrivals to Singapore grew slowly by 3.6 percent from a year ago to 688,484 in August, as the number of visitors from Southeast Asia and other regions declined, officials said Thursday. (AP)

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THE AMERICAS

Second-Guessing on Powell Decision Met With Elation and Deflation

By Steven A. Holmes
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Early Wednesday morning, Joan Lawrence, a Republican in the Ohio House of Representatives, put the finishing touches on a letter to Colin L. Powell.

"I can imagine little that would do more for this nation than to have you become president of the United States," she wrote. "Please join the fray for the Republican nomination for president."

A few hours later, as she returned to her office from a legislative session, she got a call from a friend who had seen General Powell on television saying that he would not run.

"I'm very disappointed, very disappointed," Ms. Lawrence said. "I had myself very up for the idea."

At shortly after 3 P.M. on Wednesday the sound of air leaking out of the body politic could be heard in Washington and throughout the country. For many — notably ardent conservatives and announced Republican candidates — it was a sigh of relief that General Powell, who was leading in many polls, had decided not to seek the party's nomination.

But for many others, it was a deep breath of disappointment.

For them, a moment had been lost, a moment of importance for the country, for history, for the Republican Party, for race relations, for voter enthusiasm and even for media interest in the campaign.

To be sure, many said they understood General Powell's reasons for deciding not to run: his concern for his family's privacy and his conclusion that he lacked the necessary passion for a grueling political campaign. But their understanding was colored by regret.

"It's a great tragedy," said Curtis B. Gans, director of the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate. "The public wants a better set of choices than it is likely to have next year. Right now, you're looking at an election in which you may have some very important issues, but will probably have standard-bearers who are not held in high esteem by the public and who don't inspire much passion in the electorate."

"Bummer, bummer, bummer," said Kenneth L. Adelman, former head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the Reagan administration, and a personal friend.

"He had a unique opportunity to fulfill a unique function for the country."

Regret in not having General Powell in the race is by no means universal. Last week, a group of conservatives held a news conference at which they denigrated General Powell's military record and criticized him for supporting abortion rights and some race-based preference programs.

Some of them expressed pleasure in General Powell's decision, even as they insisted he could not have won the Republican nomination anyway.

"I continue to believe his views are not the winning formula for the Republican Party and I think his candidacy would have ended up lessening his stature because that's the nature of American politics," said Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, a conservative public policy organization.

Over and over, those who were disheartened by General Powell's withdrawal kept returning to the issue of race. As a black man with decidedly working-class roots, General Powell had become a vessel in which many blacks and whites poured their hopes for healing of the country's vexing racial divide.

Many blacks described him as Jackie Robinson writ large, someone who could break the color barrier at the highest possible level.

"There has never been an African-American who seems to have enjoyed the broad band of support across the entire electorate, and therefore had a

shot at being elected president," said Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League. "It's unclear when an African-American will rise to that stature again."

Jesse Jackson, who sought to

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EUROPE

De Gaulle's Spirit Still DominatesBy Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — On the 25th anniversary of General Charles de Gaulle's death Thursday, France remembered the man who made it the modern nation it is: proud, independent, and determined to build a united Europe either in its own image or not at all.

President Jacques Chirac, an avowed Gaullist, made the pilgrimage to Colombey-les-deux-Eglises, the eastern French village where de Gaulle died on Nov. 9, 1970, to lay a tricolor wreath on his grave, and Gaullists everywhere called on the French to live up to the vision laid out for them by The General. (There will always be only one, for the faithful.)

De Gaulle's nationalistic spirit still dominates European debate, not only in his own country but in Germany, the foe from whom he rescued French self-respect as leader of the French Resistance during World War II and with whom he carried out a historic reconciliation with Konrad Adenauer.

In recent weeks, some politicians in Germany have been sounding almost Gaullist about the issue that could make or break the movement toward greater European unity between now and 1999: the creation of a common European currency.

The French say they want one because it will make Europe less vulnerable than it is now to fluctuations in the value of the dollar. The Germans profess they want the same thing, but their currency already gives them that protection. Both views are focused on national interest, in classic Gaullist fashion.

De Gaulle's vision was not about making the proud and ancient European nation-states fit into a federal mold, but about the cultural survival of France, and Europe, in the face of a global "Anglo-Saxon" culture that he and all French presidents since have resisted.

"The French need to be proud of France; otherwise, they fall into mediocrity, they quarrel, they head for the bistro," he told his aide Alain Peyrefitte.

The nuclear force de frappe that de Gaulle built, he told Mr. Peyrefitte, was not just there to discourage aggression. "It is there just as much to deter an



Eric Cabanis/Agence France Presse

abusive protector." More seriously, he questioned whether America would be ready to risk nuclear destruction to save Europe from attack. These days, Europeans are thinking anew about how to provide for a stronger defense themselves. And, unimaginable in de Gaulle's day, Britain is France's staunchest supporter on the issue of French nuclear testing.

French and British diplomats agree that France wants better relations with Britain to counterbalance Germany's increased weight since reunification in 1990. European Union leaders, including Chancellor Helmut Kohl, hoped then that monetary union would bind Germany more closely to the common European enterprise. Except for Mr. Kohl, German politicians of all parties seem nowadays to be growing more skeptical, calling for more stringent anti-inflationary monetary requirements on would-be participants, meaning mostly their Gallic neighbors.

Mr. Chirac recently renewed his vows to meet the requirements laid down in the European Union treaty, but the Gaullist president of the French Parliament, Philippe Séguin,

wrote in a tribute to de Gaulle in the daily *Le Figaro*: "To be Gaullist today is to be resolutely in support of a European Europe, i.e., for a common currency that belongs to the people and not just central bankers, an army that could defend the liberty of the continent if necessary instead of just parading, and a union of states capable of action rather than palaver."

That and an attack on high interest rates all French politicians see forced upon them by the Germans sounded classically Gaullist, and it will not reassure the bankers across the Rhine.

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BRIEFLY EUROPE

EU Ministers Press For Morocco Accord

BRUSSELS — European Union foreign ministers will meet in a special session Friday to try to break a deadlock over a crucial trade and cooperation accord with Morocco.

The deal, one of the building blocks for a future Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area, is hung up on an array of disputes over agricultural concessions being offered to Rabat.

"The whole agricultural dossier is still up for grabs," a diplomat said after the EU failed this week to find a solution. "Almost every country has some problem with something."

(Reuters)

Yeltsin Says Kozyrev Will Have a Deputy

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin, in the hospital with heart problems, and Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev agreed Thursday that the embattled minister would get a new first deputy, the Interfax news agency reported.

The appointment indicated that Mr. Kozyrev would keep his job, at least for now. Mr. Yeltsin said last month that he was looking for a replacement for Mr. Kozyrev but later said the minister just needed a deputy to help him with his administrative duties.

(Reuters)

Leftists' Office in Oslo Is Damaged by Bomb

OSLO — A small bomb blew out windows but caused no injuries at a leftist youth group's meetinghouse in downtown Oslo on Thursday.

The group, called Blitz, has had frequent and sometimes violent confrontations with extreme rightists and neo-Nazis groups in Norway.

In a news release, Blitz said it believed the explosion was intended to mark the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht on Nov. 9, 1939, when Nazi Germany began its pogrom against Jews.

(AP)

Calendar

European Union events on Friday:

SEVILLE: European and American business leaders meet with the U.S. commerce secretary, Ron Brown, and the EU trade commissioner, Leon Brittan.

BRUSSELS: Negotiations begin on an association agreement between the EU and Lebanon.

BRUSSELS: Talks continue between European and Japanese manufacturers.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

U.S. Reporter Acquitted in Turkey

Reuters

ISTANBUL — A court on Thursday acquitted a Reuters correspondent charged under Turkey's laws on freedom of expression over an article on the army's battles with rebel Kurds.

The three-member State Security Court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to convict Aliza Marcus, 33, a U.S. citizen, for the article. It voted unanimously to acquit her on the recommendation of the court prosecutor.

"It is requested that she be acquitted because there was not sufficient evidence and she did not have any criminal intent to commit a crime," the court prosecutor

said. The court then adjourned for five minutes before returning its verdict.

The prosecutor said the Reuters story carrying her byline was not hers alone but part of a team effort including other Reuters journalists and editors.

The case stemmed from a Nov. 25, 1994, story that referred to forcible evacuation of Kurdish villages as part of a military strategy against separatist Kurdish guerrillas in southeast Turkey.

Ms. Marcus had faced up to three years in prison for "provoking enmity and hatred by displaying racism or regionalism."

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INTERNATIONAL

War-Crime Tribunal Charges Serb Officers

By William Drozdak
Washington Post Service

A United Nations tribunal charged three senior Serbian officers with crimes against humanity on Thursday for their complicity in the mass execution of 261 men who were forcibly evicted from a hospital in eastern Croatia four years ago.

The charges accuse the three Serbian officers of being responsible for the attack and occupation of Vukovar, a city near the Serbian-Croatian border that was devastated by the Serbian Army after a bloody siege that involved some of the worst fighting seen in Europe since World War II.

It was the first time that Belgrade-based Serbs were charged with war crimes by the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, which was established in The Hague two years ago by the UN Security Council.

The indictments appeared to bring investigators closer to the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, who has been accused of masterminding the violent quest for a Greater Serbia, but lately has emerged as a key player in the search for a peace settlement.

The chief prosecutor, Richard J. Goldstone of South Africa, said in a recent interview that, in the absence of an effective "paper trail," he was determined to follow a strategy of moving up the chain of command to find those ultimately responsible on all sides for the crimes against humanity committed in the Balkan fighting.

Judge Goldstone said he would be deterred by continued fighting among the warring Serbian, Croatian and Muslim parties, or by delicate negotiations to reach a lasting peace deal that are now taking place.

under U.S. supervision in Dayton, Ohio. "These are matters that will not affect the decisions that we take, but they may affect how well we are able to do the job," Judge Goldstone said. "We are interested in building up a body of legal evidence, regardless of the political consequences."

The charges brought Thursday against the three Serbian officers relate to the infamous siege of Vukovar after Serbs in Croatia rebelled against the country's decision to secede from the Yugoslav federation.

The indictments accuse soldiers under the command of the three Serbian officers — Colonel Mile Mrksic, Captain Miroslav Radic and Major Velimir Slijepancic — of removing 261 non-Serbian men from the Vukovar hospital and transporting them to a farm building in Ovcara, where the captives were beaten for several hours.

Later, the prisoners were taken in groups of 10 or 20 to a site near the farm where Yugoslav and Serbian paramilitary soldiers shot and killed them.

After the killings, the bodies of the victims were buried by a bulldozer in a mass grave at Ovcara.

A spokesman for the tribunal, Christian Chatfield, said all relevant documents had been transmitted to the Serbian government with a request that the three officers be arrested and turned over to the tribunal to stand trial.

Serbia has refused to recognize the tribunal or cooperate with its proceedings.

Of the 46 people who have been charged with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, the vast majority are Bosnian Serbs, including their leader, Radovan Karadzic, and the military commander, Ratko Mladic. But only one Bosnian Serb, Dusan Tadic, is in custody and standing trial.



HIJACKED — Kabret Shamsu, an Ethiopian national, pressing a knife against the throat of an Olympic Airways crew member during a hijacking drama Thursday at the Athens airport. Greek police units stormed the plane and arrested the man, who had taken control of the plane shortly before it landed on a flight from Bangkok. No injuries were reported.

Croats and Muslims Move To Shore Up Federation

Compiled by Our Staff Foreign Dispatches

DAYTON, Ohio — The presidents of Bosnia and Croatia agreed Thursday to shore up their federation, uniting the divided city of Mostar and enabling the return of refugees, an official close to the Balkan peace talks here said.

"The agreement has been only initiated," the official said. "The signing ceremony will be held on Friday when Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives."

The official declined to go into details of the agreement.

He said about 100 families from each side would be allowed to return to their homes in Jajce, Travnik, Bugojno, Stolac and other towns contested by the two nations in 1993.

Hours earlier, senior officials said they expected that Croatian and Bosnian officials would solve the problems that have bedeviled their federation since it was forged last year to end the battles for territory in central Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Christopher said in Washington that he would go to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside Dayton to get involved in the promising discussions.

"I hope I'll be able to make some progress," he said.

The federation between the Croats and Muslims, former enemies, has been moribund since it was formed under U.S. auspices in the spring of 1994. Mostar, badly damaged in savage 1993 fighting between Muslims and Croats, has remained a divided city with separate administrations.

Mostar's two mayors are taking part in the talks here.

Soon after the talks convened Nov. 1, the U.S.-led international negotiating team presented drafts of key documents that would constitute the backbone of a possible treaty.

Since then, mediators have been shu-

ling among the Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian delegations, trying to identify points of agreement and hammer out compromises.

Mr. Christopher said he had talked three or four times on Wednesday with Richard C. Holbrooke, the chief U.S. mediator. He said it was a good sign that face-to-face negotiations were being held among the delegations, though "many, many hard problems remain."

The official who has been following the talks said a set of much firmer proposals had been prepared in the last several days on the basis of such contacts.

The proposals, he said, will be submitted to the warring parties by the mediators, who include representatives of the European Community, Britain, France, Russia and Germany.

"The Americans are being very tough," the official said.

"We will know where we all stand after tomorrow. The contents of the revised proposals will determine how long the talks will last and whether they will end successfully or not."

The documents address seemingly intractable problems that have thwarted repeated attempts to reach a settlement of the war that broke out in Croatia in 1991 and spread to Bosnia the next year.

The drafts include a constitution for a unified Bosnian state made up of a Muslim-Croatian and a Serbian entity, maps of the territorial division of the state and the status of its capital, Sarajevo.

"It's important all around to see what the next draft brings in terms of Sarajevo and other issues," a member of another delegation said.

(Reuters, AP)

Yeltsin Holds Firm on Sanctions President Boris N. Yeltsin vetoed a bill Thursday that would call for Russia to unilaterally lift economic sanctions im-

France Links Sanctions to Fate of Fliers

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

PARIS — Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette on Thursday linked the lifting of UN sanctions against Serbia to news of the fate of two missing French citizens shot down two months ago over Bosnia.

"We have let it be known to Mr. Milosevic that we might refuse to accept the lifting of the sanctions if we failed to receive the answers to questions we have the right to ask," Mr. de Charette said at a luncheon of diplomatic reporters in Paris. He was referring to the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic.

"It is a priority of France to succeed in discovering the fate of its two pilots," he added.

Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignier have been missing since Aug. 30 when their Mirage-2000 fighter-bomber was shot down over the Bosnian Serbian capital, Pale, as they took part in NATO air raids.

The two men were photographed on the ground, but the Bosnian Serbian leader, Radovan Karadzic, said later they were subsequently taken from a hospital by unknown kidnappers.

Relatives of French peacekeepers killed in action said this week that they had asked President Bill Clinton to intervene with Mr. Milosevic to press for news of the two men.

posed by the United Nations against Yugoslavia, Reuters reported from Moscow.

The president's office said that Mr. Yeltsin sent a letter to the speaker of the State Duma that explained his objections to the draft law.

Mubarak Faces Fundamentalist Wrath President's Trip to Jerusalem Enrages Religious Foes

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

CAIRO — In the heart of this sprawling capital's biggest slum, Sheikh Mayhoub Nasser is not the only one still seething at the sight of President Hosni Mubarak standing on Israeli soil.

Mr. Mubarak's journey to pay tribute to Yitzhak Rabin has been welcomed elsewhere as a noble if overdue gesture. But in slums like Imbaba whose poverty makes it fertile soil for Islamic militants, the president's visit to Jerusalem is seen as a crucial mistake.

"Mubarak has just signed his own death certificate," Sheikh Nasser said Wednesday in his apartment here.

Although the sheikh commands wide respect among his neighbors, he insisted he was not making a threat. And even in this impoverished neighborhood, the notion that Egypt's president is now at greater risk is an extreme view.

But the sheikh expressed the frustration of many in saying that Muslims cannot tolerate a leader who would visit Israel when it still controls Jerusalem. Mr. Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, visited Jerusalem in 1977, even before Egypt made peace with Israel. Four years later, he was assassinated by Islamic militants who were angered both by the peace accord the two nations reached in 1979 and by Mr. Sadat's visit.

Despite the peace, many in Egypt still look upon Israel as an enemy. And while Mr. Mubarak's carefree words at Mr. Rabin's funeral Monday stopped well short of an embrace, his supporters have hurried to head off charges that the president's presence was an affront to Islam.

A lengthy editorial Wednesday morning in Al Ahram, the main government newspaper, offered seven reasons for the visit, saying that on balance it had been justified by "the exceptional situation." And Mr. Mubarak, who had previously refused repeated invitations to Israel, has told reporters, "I don't consider this a visit."

In interviews across Cairo, it was evident that his hope of avoiding a public backlash has been strengthened by comparisons between him and King Hussein of Jordan, whose more effusive entouge to Mr. Rabin is seen here as offensive.

Indeed, by the standards of the student protest that followed Mr. Sadat's visit to Jerusalem 18 years ago, the reaction to Mr. Mubarak's journey has been muted.

Because emergency laws have banned street demonstrations since the government began its crackdown against Islamic militants three years ago, only opposition newspapers like Al Shabab have called critical attention to what it described as Mr. Mubarak's visit to "occupied Jerusalem."

While many ordinary Egyptians said they were untroubled by the visit, the forceful antipathy expressed by Islamic militants suggested that the step welcomed in the West may carry domestic consequences.

"It is not befitting an Arab and a Muslim leader to visit Jerusalem when it is still occupied," said Mohammed Ez-

PLOT: Israel Sees Wide Conspiracy in Assassination

Continued from Page 1

had also planned attacks on other political persons, based on their ideology to try to prevent the peace process.

He did not identify the other targets, but the Shin Bet secret service has massively increased security around Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The leader of the opposition Likud party, Benjamin Netanyahu, accused by Mr. Rabin's widow, Leah, of creating

the volatile political climate that led up to the assassination, was said by his spokesman Thursday to have received death threats since the murder.

The assassination has thrown an unwelcome spotlight on Shin Bet's presumption that any threat to an Israeli figure would come from Arabs. Four officials of the service have either resigned or been transferred since the assassination, and the government has set up a commission of inquiry into the murder.

Mr. Peres said this week that Mr. Rabin had been alerted to the possibility of an assassination attempt at last Saturday's rally. But security officials said Thursday that their concerns had centered on a possible car bombing in reprisal for the killing in Malta of a top figure in the Islamic Jihad movement.

Israeli officials now seem to be suggesting that an underground Jewish extremist network had wider tentacles than Mr. Amir acknowledged, grouping accomplices who felt they acted with scriptural sanction.

By evoking the idea of a Jewish underground, the police suspicions kindle long memories of clandestine violent action by Jewish groups before and after the foundation of the state. Indeed, for many former Israeli leaders — including Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir — their actions in the Jewish underground became part of their political credentials.

And in the 1980s, clandestine groups attacked Arabs, plotted to blow up the Dome of the Rock mosque on Jerusalem's Temple Mount and planted bombs in the cars of two Palestinian mayors in the West Bank.

But what stuns Israelis is that if a modern underground is at work it is targeting Israelis, not the British and Palestinians who were the targets of groups in the 1940s. And, in confronting that idea, Israelis must also face the uncomfortable memory of earlier, fratricidal bloodletting that suggests that the Rabin assassination belongs to a painful tradition that some would prefer to ignore.

The police minister, Mr. Shafai, said officials were now investigating reports that ultra-orthodox rabbis had promoted Mr. Rabin's killing by giving religious blessing to his murderer.

At a gathering of religious and settlement groups in Jerusalem on Tuesday night, Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun of the West Bank settlement of Ofra said some rabbinical authorities had said Mr. Rabin presented a threat and may, therefore, be killed.

The police minister said more arrests were expected.

Paris Bombing Suspect Ordered Held by U.K.

Reuters

LONDON — An Algerian charged in connection with bombings in France appeared in a British court Thursday and was told that he would be held while Paris prepared an extradition request.

Rachid Ramda, an unemployed 26-year-old with no fixed address, was arrested in London on Saturday. He will appear in court again next Thursday.

British police charged him with "unlawfully and maliciously conspiring with others since July to cause an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property in France."

The police in France blame militant Algerian Muslims for a series of bombings, which began in July and have killed seven.

Arafat Visits Rabin's Home

Reuters

TEL AVIV — The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, paid a condolence call late Thursday to the home of Yitzhak Rabin's widow, Leah, Israeli security sources said. Mr. Arafat did not attend funeral services Monday for the slain Israeli leader.

VIETNAM: Old Foes Meet

Continued from Page 1

War figures was evident Thursday. General Giap, 84, who led the early military campaigns against French colonialists before the Vietnam War, wore his olive green military uniform. Mr. McNamara, 79, a Ford Motor Co. executive before he took the reins of the military in 1961, wore a blue suit. The general sat comfortably, smiling and talkative. Mr. McNamara appeared more the eager and slightly nervous technocrat, furtively scribbling notes on a yellow legal pad as General Giap spoke.

The fact that Mr. McNamara came here to see me shows that the situation has changed," General Giap said after the meeting. When he received guests during the war, he noted wryly, referring to the bombing raids that were part of Mr. McNamara's war strategy, "I had to do it underground, in a shelter."

General Giap told Mr. McNamara that he believed the patrols of the Madax were a deliberate ploy to draw the United States into the war.

The Johnson administration had devised a plan of sabotage activities on the sea and in the air in order to seek the approval of Congress," he said. Later, Mr. McNamara said that General Giap's analysis was "absolutely without foundation."

POWELL: For Clinton, Dole and the Others, a Key Threat Sidelined

Continued from Page 1

bests in trial-hear polls, or one of the other announced Republican hopefuls, none of whom is given much chance of beating him by most Republican professionals. There is also the possibility that the abrasive House speaker, Newt Gingrich, might enter the race. He has said that he would decide before the New Hampshire filing deadline, Dec. 15.

Right now, the contest for the Republican nomination seems more than ever Mr. Dole's to lose. He not only lost a rival on Wednesday; he gained a highly

valuable endorsement, that of Governor Stephen Merrill of New Hampshire, site of the first primary.

Nevertheless, all the polls show that his support is soft, and therefore subject to rapid erosion if he stumbles, which he has done in the past.

If he does so again, it is hard to judge who will pick up the pieces. Two rivals, former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, struggling for attention, each issued statements arguing that General Powell's withdrawal had turned the Republican race into a two-way

fight between himself and Mr. Dole.

Except for Mr. Gingrich, the Republican field seems set, with no other obvious possibilities lurking offstage.

A third-party ticket headed by Ross Perot or another candidate remains possible. But unlike an independent campaign by General Powell, which would presumably have attracted many Democratic voters, a Perot candidacy would be likely to help Mr. Clinton by attracting more Republicans than Democrats, as Mr. Perot did in 1992.

So the president had reason

Bangkok, killing dozens of civilian protesters.

The meeting was televised, with the antagonists prostrating themselves — approaching the king on their hands and knees. Literally. Afterward, the violence ended as suddenly as it began, and the prime minister, a former army general, resigned at their peril.

King Bhumibol, who ascended to the throne in June 1946, is the great-grandson of King Mongkut, the farsighted ruler who was celebrated on Broadway and by Hollywood in the musical "The King and I."

The urgent invitation came hours after soldiers had opened fire on democracy protesters in Bangkok, killing dozens of civilians.

replaced by a fast-developing nation struggling with every sort of modern ill, from pollution to AIDS to rampant political corruption.

INTERNATIONAL

West Urged To Prevent Hangings In Nigeria

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LAGOS — Nigerian human rights groups urged the West on Thursday to act quickly to stop the execution of a minority rights advocate, Ken Saro-Wiwa, and eight colleagues condemned to death by the country's military rulers.

A day before, Nigeria's ruling generals had ratified the death sentences of Mr. Saro-Wiwa, president of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni Peoples, and eight other members of the group, who were convicted of the murder last year of four moderate Ogoni chiefs. The nine were sentenced last week by a special military court.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa, an acclaimed playwright, says he was framed for the killings because of his political activities.

He and his co-defendants are from the Ogoni ethnic group, a minority of about 500,000 people in southern Nigeria who say their land and water have been destroyed by pollution from the oil industry. Oil accounts for about 80 percent of Nigeria's export income, and critics of the industry are often silenced.

A senior government official denied rumors circulating overseas that the nine were hanged early Thursday. "It is not true at all," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.



Mr. Saro-Wiwa's son, Ken, in Auckland, New Zealand, on Thursday asking the Commonwealth to save his father.

Other Nigerian human rights groups condemned the confirmation of the death sentences and urged the West to take action.

"The haste with which the sentences were passed shows they are determined to shed blood," said the national president of the Civil Liberties Organization, Ayo Obe.

Clement Nwankwo, president of the Constitutional Rights Project, said, "The West must act quickly to prevent hanging." But the group of former

Western nations, including the United States and Britain, have urged the Nigerian government not to carry out the executions.

But Brigadier-General Sam Malu, who made the announcement about the sentence, ruled out clemency.

The confirmation of the death sentences drew a sharp reaction from other British Commonwealth countries, whose leaders were gathering in Auckland for a summit meeting. But the group of former

British territories appeared split on what to do.

Zimbabwe's prime minister, Robert Mugabe, said Nigeria could be excluded from the Commonwealth if Mr. Saro-Wiwa and the other men were hanged.

But New Zealand's prime minister, Jim Bolger, said expelling Nigeria was not the answer, since the Commonwealth would lose the chance of persuading Nigerian rulers to exercise clemency.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa's son, Ken

Wiwa, who is in Auckland to lobby for his father, said that by confirming the death sentences the generals had thrown down a gauntlet that foreign governments had been unable to pick up.

Nigeria gained its independence from Britain in 1960. In 1993, its military rulers, led by General Sani Abacha, annulled the results of a presidential election that was supposed to have brought civilian rule back to the most populous nation in Africa.

(Reuters, AP)

Argentine Suspect Held In Jewish Center Blast

By Gabriel Escobar
Washington Post Service

BUENOS AIRES — A former army sergeant who allegedly played a direct role in last year's bombing of a Jewish community center that killed 86 people here has surrendered to authorities, raising hopes that the stalled investigation can at last be pressed to a conclusion.

The suspect, identified as Pedro Ricardo Fonseca, 35, turned himself in to the police on Monday in the southern port city of Comodoro Rivadavia and was flown to the capital for questioning. According to media reports, Mr. Fonseca told investigators he had escorted the van that carried the powerful bomb that leveled the Jewish center on July 18, 1994.

The bombing, often described as one of the bloodiest peacetime attacks against a Jewish facility anywhere, shattered the seven-story brick building. It took days for work crews to locate and recover all the bodies. More than 300 people were injured.

Although Argentina and the United States have consistently blamed Islamic militants with ties to Iran for the attack, there have been strong suggestions from the outset that Argentine nationals may have been involved.

The surrender of Mr. Fonseca, who apparently left the army after taking part in an abortive military uprising in 1990, is certain to increase speculation that police officials are

linked to the only person previously detained in the case, an Argentine auto mechanic who has been jailed for more than a year, only fuel such suspicions.

Argentine Jewish leaders, who are regularly apprised of the status of the police investigation, said last week that they had been informed that several policemen in Buenos Aires Province were involved in an auto-theft ring whose leaders have been implicated but not charged in the bombing.

According to media reports citing court sources, Mr. Fonseca was given \$100,000 to leave the country after the bombing, presumably by collaborators in the attack. He spent some time in Brazil and Chile and then returned last week to Argentina, surrendering because he feared for his life.

The investigative magistrate in charge of the case declined to comment on the media reports, and some Jewish leaders reacted cautiously, citing earlier arrests that received wide publicity and ultimately led nowhere. One investigator, speaking on condition that he not be named, said Mr. Fonseca's claims were being checked "for veracity and mendacity."

President Carlos Saúl Menem and other senior officials have said repeatedly that Argentina is aggressively investigating the embassy blast and have noted that terrorist attacks elsewhere in the world seldom yield suspects.

Iran has denied assertions by U.S. and Israeli officials and Jewish leaders here that Iranian-backed agents carried out the 1994 bombing. For its part, Tehran has accused Israel and "Zionist agents" of responsibility in the shooting last month of its top diplomat in Argentina.

Cuba's Bow to 'Reality'

Legal Currency Trading Turns a Profit

By Larry Rohter
New York Times Service

HAVANA — In an attempt to challenge the flourishing black market for American dollars and to soak up surplus pesos that have been fueling inflation, the Cuban government, for the first time in more than 30 years, is permitting its citizens to buy and sell foreign currencies on the open market.

Until July 1993, it was illegal for Cubans even to possess dollars, much less exchange them. But since then American currency has come to play an increasingly important role in this Communist state, thanks to remittances from Cubans living abroad, the opening of special consumer good shops that accept payment only in hard currency and a boom in European and Canadian tourism.

The new policy went into effect in mid-October, and eight foreign exchange kiosks are operating. "The government has bowed to economic reality and decided that if you can't beat the black market, you may as well join it and try to siphon off some of its profits," said a foreign economic analyst.

As set by the National Bank of Cuba, the official exchange rate between the dollar and the peso has been one to one. But the official money exchange kiosks, run by a nominally independent Cuban-owned company called Cadeca, are buying dollars at a rate of 25 to 1 while

selling them for 30 pesos, about the same rate offered by black market money exchangers.

Consumer goods and necessities like cooking oil are still in short supply and can usually be found only in hard currency shops or on the black market, both of which demand payment in dollars. The sale of dollars through the exchange bureaus also appears intended to take excess amounts of Cuban pesos out of circulation.

Too many pesos chasing too few consumer goods has helped in recent years to feed an inflationary spiral that worries the architects of the incipient free-market sector of the Cuban economy. Government officials hope that the foreign exchange kiosks will speed up a process set in motion by price increases for goods and services that once were free to the population.

At the beginning of 1994 there were 12 billion pesos in circulation, according to official statistics, but that figure has been reduced by nearly one quarter, said José Luis Rodríguez, the minister of the economy and planning.

Andrew Zimbalist, an expert on the Cuban economy who teaches at Smith College, said the new exchange system could also be regarded as "a small first step" toward full convertibility of the peso. But government officials stress that the system is experimental. "This is an attempt to gain experience," said José Julio Rodríguez, vice president of the National Bank of Cuba. "We have to see if it works, if the population wants it, and if so, it will be expanded."

Tamils Forced Evacuation of Jaffna, Rights Group Says as Siege Tightens

Colombo — Masked Tamil guerrillas moved from house to house and threatened civilians to get them to evacuate Jaffna town in northern Sri Lanka last month; a human-rights group said Thursday.

The report, by the University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna), was made public as Britain urged the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the army, massed at the gates of Jaffna, to avoid civilian casualties and return to negotiations.

The Tigers "had made it clear in a variety of ways that it wanted people to quit Jaffna," the rights group said, adding that "masked cadres went to

bouses and acted intimidatingly."

It said the Tigers ordered people by loudspeaker on Oct. 30 to evacuate the town, the capital of their prospective homeland in the north and east, saying they were fighting a "demonic force."

Britain appealed for negotiations as costs of the war mounted. Sri Lanka raised defense spending for 1996 to \$745 million from \$627 million.

"We deplore the loss of life and destruction resulting from this conflict," said Jeremy Hanley, minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs. He urged both sides "to take all possible steps to avoid further civilian casualties."

(Reuters, AFP)

Minister Tansu Ciller called on the European Parliament to approve the customs union, and announced a tour of European capitals to lobby for ratification and defend Ankara's progress on human rights.

Mrs. Ciller accused critics of exaggerating human rights abuses in Turkey and urged European lawmakers to acknowledge Turkey's progress in liberalizing terrorism and freedom of speech laws.

The European Parliament has threatened to block the planned accord unless Turkey improved its human rights record. The body is expected to announce its decision in December.

Earlier, in Ankara, Prime

Turkey provoked outrage last

December when a court handed down heavy jail terms to eight pro-Kurdish deputies on separatism charges. Some sentences were reduced on appeal last month, but the outcry prompted Ankara to rush changes through its Parliament in a bid to save the customs union.

In her statement Thursday, Mrs. Ciller said numerous changes had been approved, including modification of 16 articles of the constitution, saying "each of them alone would be a milestone."

"To suggest that we have done nothing or accomplished little in this extraordinary year is unreasonable," she said.

1900 TO 1999

MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS

FROST'S CENTURY

DAVID FROST'S UNIQUE INSIGHTS INTO THE EVENTS THAT SHAPED OUR LIVES.



EDITORIALS/OPIION

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Lessons From Powell

Presumably both President Bill Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole have been feeling much better since about 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, the hour when Colin Powell made official his decision not to be a candidate for the presidency. We suppose that the two party front-runners could even be forgiven a little giddiness, as could some of the others seeking the office, such as Phil Gramm and Lamar Alexander. General Powell's prospective entry into the race had threatened to upend all of their ambitions. But when the last sign of relief has been heaved by all of the aforementioned men, they would do well to entertain a much less reassuring thought. They would do well to contemplate what it was about Colin Powell — and, no less important, what it is about themselves — that made the general's potential candidacy so moment and inspiring and party-transcending to so many Americans.

If they are honest with themselves they will not buy the cheap, easy answer about how the unknown and unattainable candidate is always more attractive than the candidate who is declared, and how all that would have changed the minute General Powell got into the race, etc. etc. They will acknowledge, at least to themselves, that the leadership qualities of dignity, clarity and straightforwardness that Colin Powell projects, not to mention his rare ability to laugh at himself and his total inability to put on airs or engage in degrading gimmicks and love-me stunts, are qualities that people are desperate for in America's political life. Especially are they desperate for them in the men who are laying claim to the office of president.

General Powell may or may not be all of the wondrous things his supporters say he is, but there are a few truths of which you can be certain. He does not indulge

(and never has) the maddeningly self-referential, it's-all-about-me temptation that so often disfigures the president's prose. Unlike Senator Dole, he is not given to reflexively converting so many of the issues that come before him — instantaneously and without missing a beat — into mean, small-bore assault material against whomever he is talking on that day. You cannot imagine Colin Powell, had he got into the race, spending an entire campaign, as Phil Gramm has, deciding which people to throw out of some metaphorical wagon. And you equally cannot imagine his having a résumé transparent, as former insider, now self-described outsider Lamar Alexander has, or tricking himself out in some attire like Mr. Alexander's famous red plaid lumberjack's shirt by way of explaining to the American voter why he should be president.

Not even close. General Powell said sensible things on Wednesday about the Republican Party, about the political opportunities of African-Americans, about the point where the trimming of government (of which he approves) becomes something different and destructive, especially in regard to poor children. He was easy and unfaltering in discussing Alma Powell's experience with depression. Senator Dole had earlier said that General Powell would be in trouble once he started having to take the tough, nitty-gritty questions about things like ethanol. As the press conference went to its end on Wednesday, we found ourselves wishing someone would ask an ethanol question, since by then we had decided that he could probably put that one away, too. Tom bad he isn't a candidate; but Colin Powell, if the others would take a good look at the tape of his presentation, could yet have a positive impact on the '96 campaign.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Urgent Message to Lagos

General Sani Abacha's military dictatorship is moving quickly to execute Ken Saro-Wiwa, one of Nigeria's leading environmentalists and minority rights leaders, after convicting him on trumped up charges in a military court. Nigeria's ruling council confirmed Mr. Saro-Wiwa's sentence on Wednesday. Only outside intervention, especially by the United States and the international oil companies whose business keeps the Abacha regime afloat, can now save his life. President Bill Clinton should speak out on Mr. Saro-Wiwa's behalf without delay.

Nigeria is one of Africa's most richly endowed countries, but a succession of military dictators have looted it and left its people impoverished. Since he seized power in 1993, General Abacha's tolerance for corruption and international drug dealing and his gross abuses of human rights have made matters considerably worse.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa was targeted because he has been an effective leader of the Ogoni people who inhabit Nigeria's main oil-producing region. He mobilized campaigns to win compensation for environmental damage caused by the oil industry and pressed for a modest share of oil revenues to be diverted from the pockets of the military toward the needs of the Ogoni people. This popular movement brought military repression to Ogoniland.

The alleged crime for which Mr. Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni leaders have been

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

After Sexual Assault

Every 45 seconds in America a woman is sexually assaulted — for a total of 700,000 victims a year. These women desperately need someone to confide in, and many would like to talk to their personal physicians, but doctors are often too clumsy or insensitive to counsel victims of violence. New guidelines just issued by the American Medical Association should help improve their skills.

Sexual assault is a "silent violent epidemic" that is "traumatizing the women and children of our nation," says the AMA president, Lonnie Bristow. Some 95 percent of the victims are women, most of them under age 18. The assailant is most often a lover, friend, acquaintance or relative. Women are silent about sexual assaults because, too often, they are made to feel more like criminals than victims. Fewer than half of all sexual assaults are reported, and many victims fail to seek help promptly.

While doctors are in a good position to identify and treat victims, they do not routinely talk to patients about violence in their lives, and patients do not routinely turn to them. The AMA's new guidelines remind doctors to be alert for physical signs of abuse and for evidence of psychological trauma, as when a woman or child panics or withdraws from the

—Far Eastern Economic Review

(Hong Kong).



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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. Tel.: (1) 41 43 92 10; Adv.: (1) 41 43 92 12; Internet: IHT@eurocom.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 35 Canterbury Rd, Singapore 0511. Tel: (65) 472-7768. Fax: (65) 224-3354
Mng. Dir. Asia: Rolf D. Krueger, 30 Gloucester Rd, Hong Kong. Tel: 522-2222-1188. Fax: 522-2922-1190.
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Scherer, Friedrichstr. 15, 60323 Frankfurt. Tel: (069) 72 07 55. Fax: (069) 72 73 10
Pres.U.S.: Michael Corvo, 887 Third Ave., New York, NY 10023. Tel: (212) 722-3890. Fax: (212) 755-9705
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Peres Is Right to Pursue Security Through Peace

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Israel's new prime minister, Shimon Peres, has been derided by his own people as a visionary. But he is fully aware of the enormous extra difficulties he faces in the drive for peace without his former rival and then political partner, the slain Yitzhak Rabin.

His stunned face in the aftermath of the assassination showed it. There was shock and grief, but beyond that, in a man never accused of modesty, the kind of bumble awe of unexpected responsibility expressed by President Harry Truman taking over from Franklin D. Roosevelt, according to a new book based on Truman's letters and notes. This is not to compare the men but the situation.

When I saw him in Amman and again in Jerusalem last week, Mr. Peres was euphoric. He has clear ideas of how to forge ahead, step by step although he cannily doesn't spell it out, and where he expects to arrive. He speaks of an essential triangle, Israel-Palestinians-Jordan, and he likes to use the metaphor of Benelux, three distinct cultures and countries living in fruitful symbiosis.

But his biggest problem will be Israel, and that is what he has suddenly had to realize. He has been the accelerator, Mr. Rabin the brake, as the Israeli engine for

peace chugged steadily forward. He produced the ideas and diplomatic breakthroughs, Mr. Rabin the essential domestic support and confidence.

In the near term, Israeli horror and revulsion at the murder will reinforce his efforts to gather the divided nation behind his unquestioned determination to fulfill the promise. He will be the prime target of virile fanaticism now.

It should help him that the opposition offers just that — opposition and dire warnings, no real alternative.

There are too much time to go, however, too many major obstacles ahead for the solidarity of distress to carry him through. He will need help to replace the reassurance that Mr. Rabin's tough record and rugged temperament provided. It will need to come not only from stricken Israelis but also from Arab leadership and the outside world, especially American Jewry.

Syria's President Hafez Assad told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Damascus last week that Mr. Rabin was too fearful of Israeli critics. Last Saturday showed Mr. Assad's underestimation of the risk and perhaps overestimation of the

powers of a democratic leader, who must persuade as well as decide. Mr. Assad should reconsider, for he, too, stands to lose if the momentum is lost.

The reflex reaction of many moderate Arabs, who do want an accord, has been that the Israelis must move to crack down as hard on their own extremists and terrorists as they do on their unrelenting Arab enemies. There is a point in noting that Israel applies a double standard, and its police and justice need to be stricter in imposing the law. But the indulgence stems from a long war and war's inevitable assumptions.

There are no more "good terrorists," and that must be proclaimed more unequivocally and effectively than ever.

Egypt, which has been cool in recent years after having made the first peace with Israel, has come to fear Israeli economic dominance. That is self-denying. Israel, flourishing now with growth rates on the order of 7 percent, is already reaping a peace dividend from new investment and the opening of huge new markets in the once reluctant developing countries. The neighbor's new prosperity offers opportunities for Egypt, too.

President Hosni Mubarak, who went to Israel for the first time to attend Mr.

Rabin's funeral, stressed that he came to offer condolence, not to visit. A warmer relation would comfort Israelis, and thus help Mr. Peres convince them that he is on the right track. The American government has not faltered in its support, but congressional plots on moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and cutting off aid to the PLO are aimed only at domestic U.S. politics in the belief that American Jews essentially back Israeli hard-liners.

There is an extremist fringe in the United States as fierce as Israeli extremists. But they are not the majority, which has been intimidated by the shrill voices of those who pretend to defend Israel by opposing peace negotiations. The others must make themselves heard if they want Mr. Peres to succeed.

All of this is needed for more Israelis to take heart and see much more hope than danger in the course Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres launched together, and to fill the vacuum of confidence left by Mr. Rabin's death. It is worth it, for all concerned.

Only Israelis will vote in their elections next year, but as usual they will be looking all around to judge the prospect of security. Peace, says Mr. Peres, is the most reliable one. He is right.

© Flora Lewis.

Yet Another Peace-Seeker Assassinated in the Middle East

By John K. Cooley

NICOSIA — Yitzhak Rabin's murder by a Jewish extremist is the latest assassination in a long series. Each was intended to nullify peace efforts or retard history's natural progress in the Mideast. Each contains lessons.

King Hussein of Jordan, emotionally eulogizing Mr. Rabin as "my brother, my friend" at the slain Israeli leader's funeral in Jerusalem, alluded to the 1951 murder of his grandfather, King Abdallah of Trans-Jordan.

Before the eyes of Hussein, then a boy of 16, a Palestinian assassin gunned Abdallah down. The murderer, and other Palestinians, resented Abdallah's audacious meetings with Israelis to seek Israeli-Arab compromises and peace, which only his grandson would reach in the Jordan-Israel treaty of 1994.

Yitzhak Rabin, then a young officer in the fledgling Israeli army but already a tough veteran of fighting against both Arabs and the pre-1948 British mandate authorities, acted on at least part of the lessons that Hussein also learned on that day of murder at Hussein's Grand Mosque.

First lesson: Get to know your enemy. He may become your

honorable adversary; eventually your friend. You must meet him frequently, and in total secrecy. Open meetings and covenants, like today's television sound bite diplomacy, lead only to trouble and charges of treachery from opponents of compromise.

King Abdallah wasn't careful enough. He paid with his life. His grandson, and Yitzhak Rabin, then a young officer with a solid background in guerrilla warfare in Jewish causes, took in the lesson. Over the years, Hussein met Mr. Rabin and other Israelis in deepest secrecy. Together they found ways out of many a deep crisis, such as the grave threat to Hussein's life and throne from Palestinian extremists in 1970.

It was Egypt's militant nationalist President Gamal Abdel Nasser nearly became the next victim of religious extremists. Bullets fired by Egyptian members of the arch-Islamist Muslim Brotherhood nearly felled him at least twice in the early 1950s. Not only was his vision of a better Egyptian society too secular and too "socialist" for them; he was accused of too great patience with

the former occupying power, Britain, as well as with Israel and its patron, America.

It turned out to be President Dwight Eisenhower who in effect rescued Nasser from his attackers in the Suez War of 1956 — Israel, Britain and France. Essentially, Eisenhower did that by becoming the only U.S. president ever to warn Israel's supportive fund-raisers in America that their tax-free privileges were at risk unless they supported Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Sinai, as the United Nations was demanding.

After that, Israel, as its founding father David Ben-Gurion told me in an interview in 1968, had no choice but to withdraw.

Before exhaustion, heart failure or diabetes finally felled Nasser after he had helped to end King Hussein's 1970 war with Yasser Arafat's PLO in Jordan, he had, through U.S. intermediaries, approached the Israelis with secret offers of compromise peace. None were accepted. His Western image remained bad.

Nasser was too secretive. He was surrounded by almost Soviet-type security spooks who usually

dared to give him only good news, so his judgment was flawed. His image in the West was not that of the peacemaker, like his successor Anwar Sadat, but of one who had tried unsuccessfully to wage war on Israel.

President Sadat, the darling of Barbara Walters, Walter Cronkite and the other media greats of my generation, knew a lot more about human psychology than Yitzhak Rabin seemed to know in two more wars (Yom Kippur in 1973 and Lebanon in 1982) to perceive that Israel-Palestine accord was the central condition of real Arab-Israeli Peace.

But Sadat also knew that peace would have to wait until, with American help, Egypt and Israel attained their settlement first. He was right; they did.

The Islamist gunman who killed Sadat at a military parade that was meant to celebrate that peace spoke in terms similar to those used by Yitzhak Rabin's Jewish assassin. He was proud, he said, to have killed the "traitor" who had become an enemy of God by compromising.

Unlike Rabin, Sadat allowed himself to get involved in a ma-

jor American adventure: the proxy war, using Islamist mercenaries, against the Soviets in Afghanistan. It was men whom Sadat had trained and armed to fight for the Americans in that anti-Communist crusade who turned on him and killed him — just as some of the Afghan veterans and their sons and successors, after driving out the Russians, turned on the West.

Like Rabin and Abdallah, Sadat was in fact murdered essentially because he sought and had obtained a reasonable, honorable Egyptian-Israeli peace.

Rabin's two major tasks — consolidating and completing the difficult self-rule agreement with the Palestinians, and concluding lasting peace with President Hafez Assad of Syria — were not accomplished. It will take all the will, wit, wisdom, courage and luck that the Middle East's and the West's remaining men and women of vision can muster to complete Yitzhak Rabin's unfinished work for peace.

The writer, an ABC news correspondent and author, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Hypothesis: Welfare Hurts the Women by Demobilizing the Men

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — What's wrong with American welfare? Here is an answer you haven't heard:

"The key problem of the welfare culture is not unemployed women with illegitimate children. It is the women's skewed and traumatic relationships with men and boys. In a reversal of the usual pattern in civilized societies, the women have the income and the ties to government authority and support. The men are economically and socially subordinate ..."

You see, of course, where Mr. Gilder is headed. Men, he believes, are the key to strong families. And if they are, the more successful welfare is — even if it leads women to jobs, child care and improved earnings — the worse it will be for families, because it will "render the men still more optional, desperate, feral, and single."

Does any of this make sense?

How would I feel, bearing this indispensable-man argument, if I were female, especially if I were a single mother?

Already there has been a stream of books and articles (some of them written by me) arguing the negative effects of absent fathers on children and on communities, or contending that the breakdown of marriage is the leading indicator of social pathology, or otherwise calling for reclamation of men and boys as the means of rescuing society. The Million Man March only underscored the notion. Some women must be wondering what makes us think

that men are God's primary gift?

Well, Mr. Gilder isn't quite saying we are. What he is saying is that children need their fathers, too, and so do their mothers; and that welfare almost calculatedly drives the men away, perpetuating both the worst effects of welfare and the need for it. Listen:

"The entire welfare state — from Donna Shalala to Bob Dole's Senate offices — is relentlessly feminist, mandating preferences for women on construction sites, in police cruisers, in Air Force jets and in athletic scholarships. These programs necessarily concentrate their job incentives, training benefits and subsidies on women rather than on men because, in general, it is only the mothers who are on welfare. The fathers use the apartments and take the money of a series of welfare mothers, usually without joining the dole. Thus the recipients of welfare-related work mail mainly be women."

"But we know from reams of studies and centuries of experience that only fathers can satisfactorily sustain families, reliably discipline teenage boys, and lift the community from poverty. The idea that welfare mothers can do it while the government raises their children is incredibly naive ..."

"The very idea that women with small children should work outside the home is perverse. The welfare state has already deprived these children of fathers. The

workfare state proposes to take away the mothers as well."

Implicit in that analysis is the idea of woman as civilizer of naturally predatory man. How does she do it? By demanding commitment (which she needs) in

In South Africa, Liberated Cuisine



Achmal Marcus, part owner and chef at the Cape Manna restaurant in Cape Town, with a plate of his hoenderpatei, or chicken pie.

Rodger Bosch/Sightlight for NYT



By Marian Burros
New York Times Service

CAPETOWN — The whirling blades of the approaching helicopter distracted us from the attention we were lavishing on our lunch in the beautiful countryside outside Cape Town. After years of isolation from the rest of the world, culinary and otherwise, South Africa is beginning to serve food that is worthy of attention.

At Bosman's, for example, a charming small restaurant in the five-star Grande Roche Hotel, about a half-hour outside Cape Town, the food and service are on a par with those of the best restaurants in the United States. The helicopter says it all. Flying in for lunch has become so common since the restaurant opened in 1991 that this mode of transport gets no more notice from the staff than the arrival of a car.

"It's fascinating to watch the impact of the lifting of the sanctions has had on food," said Launice Nyman, the doyenne of restaurant critics in the Cape Town area. She was referring to international sanctions applied to South Africa because of its policy of apartheid, in place until the spring of last year. For the last 10 years, she said, "no chefs have been willing to have South African cuisine on their CVs."

All that is changing as chefs in South Africa are making the first tentative moves from butter and cream to olive oil and to the use of local ingredients in updated dishes. White South Africans have also discovered the native food of the rest of Africa as well as their own Cape Malay cooking — 300 years of blending traditions of the Dutch, German, French and English with Indian and Indonesian.

The audience is changing too. Although at the more expensive restaurants I visited, the clientele was almost exclusively white, at the more moderate ones, the clientele was mixed.

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Buitenvrocht

Buitenvrocht is in the suburb of Constantia about 20 minutes from Cape Town.

Past towering English oaks, horses grazing in the pasture, vineyards in full leaf, the long drive through the gates promises something special.

To start there were oysters with spinach puree and superb crayfish on basmati rice with shrimp and black sesame seeds. The most remarkable first course was a silken duck liver parfait, made with a sweet, late harvest wine exploding with flavor. This up-to-date chef can make sublime classics.

Perfectly cooked lamb with an herb crust, served with red cabbage, this time

creamed with bacon, was accompanied by splendid gratinéed potatoes. Kudu was the venison on the menu and although it was a trifle too gamy for my taste, the accompanying potato gnocchi were a knockout.

Whether one chooses kingklip, in this case served with bacon and lentils, or pork tenderloin with Dijon mustard and a fine polenta and broccoli puree, the assortment of vegetables that accompanied each entrée was not only perfectly cooked but handsomely presented.

Cape Manna

In a modest neighborhood of Cape Town, Cape Manna is one of the few restaurants serving Cape Malay food, a spicy mix of Dutch, French, German, English, Indonesian and Indian elements. Cape Malay people were among those designated "colored" during apartheid. One of the two owners, John Geise, runs the place; the other, Achmal Marcus, a Cape Malay, is chef.

This is hearty, some would say heavy, fare, and its heady aromas are the first thing you notice as you enter the tiny, simple storefront restaurant.

A platter of savory mince pies and samosas, the fried Indian pastry, or grilled crumbled garlic mussels are good beginnings. Move on to a fragrant vegetable curry, much like an Indian version but not as spicy. The bobotie, a homely and comforting meat loaf with custard, is the South African national dish. A short wine list offers a selection of South African wines.

And then there is Malva pudding — butter, eggs, sugar, flour and vinegar topped with more butter, sugar, cream and vanilla — all served with whipped cream or ice cream.

And the price is right: a three-course meal without wine will cost \$10.



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Mitsubishi Estate Says Profit Hit A 19-Year Low

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Mitsubishi Estate Co., one of Japan's oldest and largest real estate companies, said Thursday its first-half profit tumbled to its lowest level in 19 years amid continued sluggishness in the nation's property market.

Mitsubishi Estate, perhaps best known overseas for its ill-fated investment in New York's Rockefeller Center, said current, or pretax, profit fell to 6.77 billion yen (\$66 million) in the six months ended Sept. 30 from 29.64 billion yen a year earlier.

It was the fifth year of falling profit for Mitsubishi Estate and the lowest half-year profit since 1976. Revenue fell to 176.67 billion yen from 229.49 billion yen a year earlier.

"Until the economy turns around, commercial property prices won't recover," said Muneyo Tanaka, executive vice

president.

Vacancy rates at Mitsubishi Estate's Japanese office buildings have started to recover but remain high. The company's office properties were 12.54 percent vacant in the half year, compared with 13.3 percent a year earlier.

Revenue at the company's property sales division fell to 21.5 billion yen from 82.7 billion yen, while sales at the property and building rental division dropped to 123.6 billion yen from 127.8 billion yen.

The company said it had cut operating expenses to 147.8 billion yen from 175.4 billion yen, not enough to offset the large drop in revenue.

Mitsubishi Estate said it would continue to suffer from the prolonged deterioration of the property market, with a high level of debt also undermining profitability.

"We do not expect any significant recovery in the property market for the next two or three years, as the property market usually lags actual economic activity," Mr. Tanaka said.

Mitsubishi Estate agreed in October to sell its interest in two Tokyo office towers — the Marubeni Building and the Aoyama Building.

The sale of the Marubeni Building will result in a profit of about 6.5 billion yen, but Mitsubishi Estate will not book that profit until the year ending in March 1997, the company said.

Mitsubishi Estate paid \$1.4 billion for an 80 percent stake in the landmark Rockefeller Center complex in Manhattan at the end of the 1980s.

The investment was made just before real estate prices began tumbling in the United States. The partnership controlled by Mitsubishi failed to meet its mortgage payments as rents fell. It placed the famous New York property under bankruptcy-law protection in May after losing about \$600 million.

The loss on that investment did not affect the company's latest half-year earnings, but it will show up on its full-year consolidated statement.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Bank Data From Japan Draw Fire

Reuters

TOKYO — Differences between the reporting practices of Japanese banks and those of other countries are in large part responsible for distrust of Japan's financial sector, Brian Quinn, executive director of the Bank of England, said Thursday.

"We saw that Japan's accounting and reporting practices were different from those of other countries, and little has been done to close the gap," he said.

"This is responsible, in large part, for distrust of the Japanese financial sector and for the 'Japan premium.'

The Japan premium is the extra cost that Japanese banks have to pay when raising funds overseas.

Mr. Quinn said it should now be clear that financial institutions active in international markets must be judged according to international standards.

The loss on that investment did not affect the company's latest half-year earnings, but it will show up on its full-year consolidated statement.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Exclusive New Clubs Bring the 'Power Lunch' to Beijing

Reuters

BEIJING — Interested in meeting the chiefs of China's major banks and trading companies as well as many of Beijing's top foreign business people?

Then find \$10,000 and try to get an invitation to join the Capital Club, one of several exclusive venues that have opened in Beijing in the past two years. Like its competitors, the Capital presents itself as the premier private club in China.

The new clubs offer a place for recreation and business meetings as well as an upscale social milieu in which to meet leading movers and shakers — both Chinese and foreign — in a country where personal contacts often count for more than laws or contracts.

As one Southeast Asian businessman put it: "There are two things to say about China. One is that it is hard to do business here. The other is that you can do anything."

The Capital Club has 800 members, about 30 percent of whom are Chinese.

Owned by China International Trust & Investment Corp., or CITIC, the club is on the 50th floor of Capital Mansions, one of Beijing's largest skyscrapers. It offers Chinese and Western cuisine, a bar, a library, meeting rooms and an athletic club.

"Even three to four years ago, conditions were not ripe for such a club," said Capital's membership director, Lillian Zhao. "We spent a year of market research before deciding to set it up."

The research found that potential members preferred the idea of a club of their own where they could dine and rub shoulders with their peers to going to a public facility such as a hotel bar or restaurant.

The club opened Oct. 14, 1994. Its chairman is Wang Jun, chairman of CITIC. China's biggest multinational investment firm. He is the son of the late Wang Zhen, the former vice president of China.

The founding board of governors includes the chair-

man of the Bank of China, a son-in-law of China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping and the mayor of Shanghai.

Ding Yucheng, a Beijing representative for the U.S. securities firm Bear, Stearns & Co., joined the club last year because, he said, it offered the best price of any such clubs, was close to his office and offered athletic facilities and a good place for business meetings.

"Since I joined as a private member, I can transfer my membership, so it was a kind of investment," he said.

But he says he only goes about twice a month because he finds the club's activities and seminars geared mainly to expatriate members and because it does not encourage members to bring guests.

"We local people have more friends and more choice of entertainment than do expatriates in Beijing," he said. "There is a big gap in the cultural background between us and foreigners."

The Capital Club does not, however, have the market for exclusive clubs all to itself. The Chang An club, a short distance from Tiananmen square in the heart of Beijing, plans an official opening in early 1996 and is charging \$9,000 for corporate members and \$7,000 for individual members.

"We are aiming at a 70-30 Chinese-foreigner proportion and targeting joint ventures and high-profile local companies," said the club's general manager, Roger Chapman. Like the Capital Club, membership will be by invitation only.

CCA International, which manages Chang An, also plans golf and country clubs in Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Shanghai and another city club in Dalian.

While the line between officials and business people is increasingly blurred in China, clubs target the latter as members, especially since a nationwide campaign against corruption has made government officials wary of accepting favors.

Canada's Beef: Salmon Ottawa Sees Protectionism by Canberra

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

GUNPOWDER, Australia — Tim Fountain is proud of the salmon he farms in large pens that float in pristine seawater just off the rocky shoreline of Tasmania.

Many of the fish are exported by air to Japan, where they sell for a premium of as much as 20 percent over other imported fresh salmon because they are known to be free of disease, chemicals and additives.

But Mr. Fountain and other salmon farmers in Australia are worried that a test case being brought by Canada to the World Trade Organization in Geneva on Nov. 23 may wipe out this environmental competitive advantage.

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The loss on that investment did not affect the company's latest half-year earnings, but it will show up on its full-year consolidated statement.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Unemployment Rises in Australia

Bloomberg Business News

SYDNEY — The jobless rate rose to a seven-month high and employment unexpectedly fell for a second consecutive month in October, the Bureau of Statistics said Thursday, supporting the belief that economic growth is slowing.

Employment fell last month by 33,700, to 8.22 million. The unemployment rate rose to 8.7

percent from 8.5 percent in September.

Bonds rallied on speculation that the slowdown might open the way for a reduction in interest rates soon, traders and analysts said.

John Short, chief economist at HSBC Australia, said he expected rates would be cut by Christmas. The jobs report "significantly increases the probability of a domestic interest rate cut of 50 basis points," he said.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

China, Missing the 'Soft Landing,' Will Step Up Inflation Battle in '96

Bloomberg Business News

BEIJING — Zhu Rongji, China's deputy prime minister and top economic policymaker, said Thursday that China would strengthen its anti-inflation campaign next year, according to published reports in Hong Kong.

"China's economy has yet to successfully achieve a soft landing," Mr. Zhu said, using the economic term for low inflation with slower, but not recessionary, growth. "Next year we will strengthen macroeconomic controls." Prices in China were still rising too fast, Mr. Zhu added.

His remarks were published in the Chinese-language newspaper Wen Wei Po.

China's anti-inflation campaign, begun in 1993, has been marked by tight controls on lending and curbs on government spending. Those forces

pushed economic growth for the first nine months of 1995 below 10 percent for the first time since 1991, to 9.8 percent.

Mr. Zhu said the government would restrict investment in infrastructure projects in 1996 and would limit consumer goods purchases by state organizations.

The architect of China's anti-inflation program in 1993, Mr. Zhu resigned as the governor of China's central bank in June to concentrate on economic policymaking.

Some analysts, however, called his statements too cautious. "This is the type of comment you'd expect from a former governor of the central bank," said Gavin Graham, chief investment officer of Citibank Global Asset Management.

"There has been a soft landing, and it's likely there will be some credit relaxation next year."

The Hang Seng China En-

terprises Index of state-owned companies listed in Hong Kong has tumbled 22 percent in the last two months on expectations that companies would record dismal earnings this year.

Meanwhile, Shanghai B shares extended a weeklong slide, partly on concern that the government would soon relax its strict lending policies, analysts said. The policies have made it difficult for some companies to pay their debts.

The Shanghai B share index, which tracks the 36 Chinese stocks that can be owned by foreigners, dropped 0.7 percent to 51.2 points, its lowest level since May 10.

Delay Hits Nintendo Stock Price

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Shares in Nintendo Co. fell 4.6 percent

Thursday on reports the company would not introduce its next-generation video-game player until early 1996, missing the lucrative Christmas season.

The daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun said the company would not release its Ultra 64 game player until the spring, when more software would be available for the machine.

Stock in Nintendo dropped 390 yen, to 8,000 (\$77.52). A company spokesman declined to comment on the report.

Missing the year-end sales season could be a serious blow to Nintendo as it deals with challenges from its main competitor, Sega Enterprises Ltd. and Sony Corp.

Sega and Sony introduced game machines more than a year ago that offered greater speed and color than Nintendo's current machines.

Separately, spokesmen for Sony and Victor Co. of Japan said their companies were in talks with Sega, Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. and Yamaha Corp. on developing a computer network using video-game terminals.

The spokesmen, who would not provide details of the talks, were responding to a report in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun that said the network would combine security features available in conventional PC networks with the openness of the Internet.

In another development that could hurt makers of game players, NEC Corp. and Namco Corp. are teaming up to market a powerful semiconductor package they say will make games as fast and vivid on PCs as they are on dedicated players.

The two companies said the chip bundle would be sold to PC makers starting in May.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

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10000	2300	2000
9500	2200	1800
9000	2100	1600
8500	2000	14000
8000 JASON 1995	2000 JASON 1995	14000 JASON 1995
7500	1900	12000
7000	1800	11000
6500	1700	10000
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5000	1400	7000
4500	1300	6000
4000	1200	5000
3500	1100	4000
3000	1000	3000
2500	900	2000
2000	800	1500
1500	700	1000
1000	600	800
500	500	500
0	0	0

Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. will cut its work force by as much as 10 percent amid rising costs and increased competition. The company has about 20,000 workers.
- Taiho Pharmaceutical Co.'s sales of energy drinks during a hot summer helped half-year pretax profit rise 13 percent to 33.81 billion yen (\$327.6 million); sales increased 5 percent, to 115.85 billion yen.
- Texas Instruments (Philippines) Inc. is to spend as much as \$120 million over the next two years for expansion.
- Matsushita Electric Works Ltd. is considering building a \$60 million television factory in Gdansk, Poland, the city's president said, adding that the plant would employ about 100 people.
- Overseas Chinese Bank is to be examined by Taipei regulators after allegations of illegal lending and unusual changes implemented by its new chairman.
-

NASDAQ

Thursday's 4 p.m.
The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

NYSE

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close
(Continued)

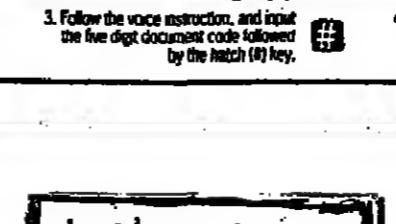
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Donizetti prepares to shoot the game-winning goal for Brazil.

Brazil Beats Old Rival

SOCCER The World Cup champion, Brazil, led by midfielders Júnior and Amaro, beat Argentina, 1-0, in an exhibition game Wednesday night in which there were 62 fouls and two red cards. In a game played in the packed River Plate Stadium, Donizetti, who was making his debut, scored in the 21st minute. Aríson of Brazil and Cristian González of Argentina, both substitutes, were sent off.

PARIS — French coach Aimé Jacquet did not pick either of his English-based stars, Eric Cantona and David Ginola, for next week's European championship qualifier against Israel. Jacquet said of Cantona: "The team must be spared from surprises just now. This is a match we have to win."

(Reuters)

Super Bowl Prices Up

FOOTBALL The top ticket price for the Super Bowl, to be played in Tempe, Arizona, on Jan. 28, has been raised \$50 to \$350. The increase will apply to 23,000 of the more than 70,000 seats at Sun Devil Stadium. Another 10,700 seats will cost \$250 each. The remaining 37,500 will be \$200. For the last two Super Bowls, there have been two prices, \$300 and \$200. (AP)

Bruno Must Fight Tyson

BOXING The World Boxing Council, meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, ruled on Thursday that the heavyweight champion Frank Bruno should make his first title defense against Mike Tyson. (Reuters)

Cordova Wins Award

BASEBALL Marty Cordova, the Minnesota Twins outfielder who had 24 homers and 84 RBIs, was voted American League Rookie of the Year, edging California's Garret Anderson in the closest race in 16 years. Cordova and Anderson each received 13 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America. Cordova had 13 second-place votes and Anderson 10. (AP)

Pakistan Drops Chances

CRICKET Pakistan made a frustrating start to the first Test against Australia in Brisbane. The tourists dropped five catches as Australia reached 262 runs for four wickets. Salim Malik, whom the Australians did not want on the tour because they said he tried to bribe some of their players, split the webbing at the base of his left thumb catching a hard-hit shot from the Australian captain, Mark Taylor, and had to leave the field. (Reuters)

Lomu the Young Colossus Strikes Fear Into French

Reuters

France plays the touring New Zealanders in Toulouse on Saturday in the first of two tests to determine the state of the world rugby hierarchy after the last World Cup matches in South Africa.

New Zealand finished second and France third in the tournament last June after both being narrowly beaten by the home team and, outside of South Africa, were regarded by many as the best two teams on view. South Africa, meanwhile, plays Italy in Rome on Sunday and England at Twickenham, West London, on Nov. 18.

The All Blacks, anxious to prove that despite their 15-12 overtime loss to the Springboks in the World Cup final, remain rugby's best, also have a score to settle with the French.

The French team surprised themselves by going to New Zealand last year and winning both tests.

New Zealand has conserved the nucleus of its World Cup team. But two of the three young stars for the All Blacks who emerged in South Africa, the flyhalf Andrew Mehrtens and flank forward Josh Kronfeld, are missing because of injury. Meanwhile, the French are rebuilding under a new coach, Jean-Claude Skrela.

The third, and most imposing, of the new

All Blacks stars is the wing Jonah Lomu, the colossus. He was the sensation of the World Cup, and he is the player the French fear, with his strength and speed giving him the ability to power down the left flank regardless of how many tacklers try to stop him.

Lomu has not been outstanding so far on tour, but he may be biding his time for the big occasions that present themselves in Toulouse and next week in Paris at the Parc des Princes.

If the French are wary of Lomu, the All Blacks have their eyes on the right wing Emile Ntamack, a speed ace who has a habit of scoring tries for his country.

The New Zealand fullback Jeff Wilson said: "They're an impressive team. For me the key man is Ntamack. He can suddenly appear anywhere at any time. He's completely unpredictable."

France has made a few changes. Their new men include the centers Richard Dourthe and Thomas Castaignede, the scrum-half Philippe Carboneau and the lock Fabien Pelous.

Skrela's team looked impressive in winning the Latin Cup in Argentina last month, scoring 15 tries in their three matches against the hosts, Romania and Italy.



Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand winger, prepares for Saturday's test against France at a training session in Blagnac.

Ice Hockey Is On a Roll — Across the World's Pavements

Roller Skates Are Carrying the Imperialist Hopes of the World's Fastest Team Sport

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The old-timers who grew up with Gordie Howe and Bobby Orr used to admit that ice hockey could never skate with soccer or basketball, that it could never become a global sport. The problem was the ice. Ice hockey has always been the world's fastest team game — no problems there — but how could the sport grow where the ponds don't freeze?

They used to figure that somebody, someday, would invent an artificial rink, a plastic kind of ice. They never seemed to think about reinventing the skates.

"The new artificial surface is blacktop," Steve Solomon, senior vice president and CEO of the National Hockey League, said from New York. "It's tar. Pavement. The game used to be limited to cold-weather climates, but with the growth of in-line skating, we're seeing people at the grass roots with the opportunity to play the game on sidewalks or pavement. We think it's going to catapult the sport in popularity."

Ever since it hired Gary Bettman as commissioner in January 1993 from the National Basketball Association, where he learned about American sporting imperialism under David Stern, the NHL has been willing to try anything to make ice hockey a larger, more worldly game.

The NHL has become an international league, more than 20 percent of its players, come from Europe. Next summer it will hold its first World Cup, an invitational tournament of six or eight national teams.

In early 1998, the NHL will pause to allow its stars to compete in the Winter Olympics at Nagano, Japan.

If the 1992 Olympics affirmed the global celebrity of the greatest American basketball players, then the next Olympic hockey tournament should create a better sense for the unique speed of that game. It should also be much more competitive than was the basketball in Barcelona. The Russians, with 46 current NHL players, the Swedes (27), the Czechs (23) and the Finns, with 12, will join Canada (372) and the U.S. (107) as contenders for a medal.

None of this will hold the public's interest between Olympics unless more children everywhere learn to play the game. The basketball people have prospered by hosting three-on-three "street" tournaments around the world. The hockey people are thinking about inflatable rinks.

"I think it's a growth business for us," Solomon said. "It's a business we will be trying to get into. It's roughly three-quarters the size of a ice hockey rink. The sides are very strong, and they can take a lot of banging-into. You get the real feeling that you're stepping into a rink."

The NHL's interest in street hockey is new. Its unofficial world partner, the International Ice Hockey Federation, is seeking to become the sanctioning body for "in-line" hockey, according to Solomon. There

are plans for a world championship in San Jose, California, next year.

"There are a half-million kids playing sanctioned roller hockey throughout the U.S.," Solomon said. "I expect to see more and more professional leagues established, and someday you might see it as an Olympic sport. I don't think the sport will replace the game on the ice, but it's a great recreational substitute and a good game to watch."

Those involved in the European equivalent will doubt be thinking, "typical Americans." Their International Skater Hockey Federation, based in England, predates the newfound interest in "in-line skating" or "rollerblading." The more sophisticated Europeans tend to play on the old-fashioned, four-wheeled roller skates — "quads," as they're known.

"The influence in America seems to be that everybody should be skating in-line," said Stella Van der Geyten, the federation president. "But the European attitude is that nobody will ever dictate to us what we put on our feet."

Another controversy comes from the American preference for the puck. Europeans find that a hard ball with minimal bounce is safer. But such are the adult arguments. The teenagers in their leg and elbow pads, their sticks, helmets and wheeled feet — look like combatants in a video game, or a meek Mad Max movie.

"You hear from people on both sides," said Prosper Edutie, a 32-year-old Londoner who is considered to be one of the sport's founding fathers. "The disadvantage with the in-line skates is that you can't accelerate as fast, but the maneuvers are much easier to do. But for the stop-start, stop-start, you're better off on the quads."

Edutie was 16 when he and a few school friends crushed a soda can down as flat as a puck and began hitting it around with hockey sticks on the pavement at South Bank in London. They formed the London Street Warriors, a new-age heir to the Montreal Canadiens in their dominance of original British street hockey.

The European game recently changed its name to "skater hockey." The idea of street hockey was scaring potential sponsors. Up to 12,000 players are registered with federations in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Britain and Barbados, but Van der Geyten believes 10 times as many kids are playing.

"It tends to spring up on street corners or vacant lots," she said: the way stickball used to in America.

"People from Europe on holidays would see us playing and they'd say, 'We do something like this in our country,'" Edutie said. "I'm a black guy myself, and I found that ice hockey was always a closed door as far as black kids were concerned. When we first started the club in 1982, it was mostly black guys playing."

"But now the shift has actually gone towards white guys. The majority of the kids playing on the 15 teams in London are white. There's no segregation, no boundaries. I think the reason it's so open now is because it was started by the blacks."

Heat Victory Over Rockets Warms Riley's Heart

The Associated Press

Pat Riley has the Miami Heat playing his way, and it looks like the right way.

With an 89-82 victory over the two-time NBA champion Houston Rockets, Miami has won its first two games, its best start in the franchise's eight-year history.

"Hey, 2-0," Riley said Wednesday night. "Let's quit right now and go straight to the playoffs."

The Sacramento Kings would vote for that, too. The team that has missed the playoffs for nine straight seasons is 4-0 for the first time in 35 years after a 109-90 victory over Toronto.

With its victory, the Heat broke an 11-

game losing streak against the Rockets dating back to November 1989.

"What happened in the past is in the past," said Keith Askins, who has been with the Heat since 1990. "We have great weather down here, but it's not going to be a vacation for teams when they come down here."

The Rockets, who lost for the first time, scored six consecutive points to tie the game at 82, but failed to score in the final two minutes.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 22 points for the Rockets, outplaying the Heat's center, Alonzo Mourning, who missed 10 of 13 shots and scored 13 points.

Kings 109, Rockets 80: Mitch Richmond scored 32 points to help get Sacramento to its best start since 1980, when the club was called the Cincinnati Royals and Oscar Robertson was just a rookie.

Richmond hit eight of nine shots in the first half and cooled only slightly in the second half.

Bullets 110, Hornets 98: Georgie Murean scored 13 of his career-high 31 points in the fourth quarter, and Washington overcame 38 points by Glen Rice.

Celtics 113, Suns 109: Dino Radja and DeBrown scored 21 points each as Boston got its first victory of the season by outrunning the visiting Phoenix Suns.

The Celtics outscored Phoenix 20-2 on fast breaks. Their last one, started by Rick Fox's rebound and long pass and capped by Radja's dunk with 1:08 left, gave them a 109-103 lead.

Spurs 111, Grizzlies 62: David Robinson put the game away for the host Spurs by scoring 20 points in the third quarter.

Rockets 107, Trail Blazers 100: Joe Dumars, playing on a bad hamstring, scored 41 points in 42 minutes to lead Detroit to an overtime victory over visiting Portland.

Grant Hill added 19 points for Detroit, which won its first game under its new coach, Doug Collins. Robinson had 30 and Rod Strickland 25 for Portland.

Spurs 111, Grizzlies 62:

David Robinson put the game away for the host Spurs by scoring 20 points in the third quarter.

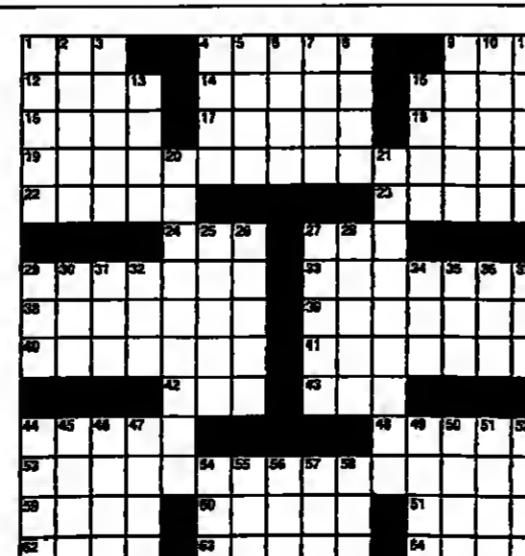
Magic 130, Nets 122: Anfernee Hardaway scored 35 points as visiting Seattle beat Denver, off to its worst start since 1990-91, lost for the fourth time this year despite 28 points from Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf.

Hawks 100, Clippers 92: Steve Smith paced Atlanta's scoring apack with 18 points, and the Hawks sank 16 of 19 free throws in the fourth quarter for the victory.

SuperSonics 122, Nuggets 117: Detlef Schrempf scored 35 points as visiting Seattle beat Denver, off to its worst start since 1990-91, lost for the fourth time this year despite 28 points from Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf.

Hawks 100, Clippers 92:

Steve Smith paced Atlanta's scoring apack with 18 points, and the Hawks sank 16 of 19 free throws in the fourth quarter for the victory.

CROSSWORD

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EMBER	CALICO CAT
ABRE	ABOLISH
MAILMAN	TEEM
STEPS	RANGES
ASIDE	REEFS
ZITA	POOLS
CENTIMO	NET
DARNA	DAIRY
PIEGES	
UNISOLD	DRAFT
JILLIE	CAUTION
WHO IN NAME BRO	
HOT DOGGER	REHAB
UNSHAPED	WHITE
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OBSERVER

Cruel Judgments

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Reading The New York Times on Sunday under the influence of drugs, my mind stopped still in its wobbly tracks when confronted by the statement that "Daniel Barenboim does not suffer fools gladly."

Normally the mind glides over cruel judgments such as this without bothering to think how cruel they are, but the drugs were turning me into a new person. I had become intensely aware of matters that had never before seemed worth being aware of.

The assertion about Barenboim's haughty attitude toward fools was extremely irritating, since for one thing Barenboim is one of my favorite pianists. I play his recordings often and have even now and then asked other persons present to shut up about football and admire his skill at handling a tricky allegro ma non troppo.

Now in my chemically renovated persons, I realized that (1) being utterly illiterate in music and (2) having only one ear fit for listening with, I have been foolish to fancy myself capable of enjoying Barenboim's work and doubly foolish for imposing my tin-eared judgment on friends.

I was, in short, one of those very fools Barenboim did not suffer gladly. The thought produced a brooding so profound that, instead of proceeding straight to The Washington Post and Doonesbury, I stared out the window watching the last leaves fall for several hours until it was time to take some more pills.

As these spread through the body's essential juices and sank chemical tentacles into the folds of the brain, I saw it was entirely

possible the reporter had thoughtlessly but cruelly misrepresented Barenboim. The truth might be that Barenboim not only suffered fools gladly, but positively adored fools, as every great man surely ought.

What a depressing place the world would be without fools. Everything working precisely on time, everyone obeying orders, everybody appreciating what deserves to be appreciated and deplored, everybody saluting and wading around hip-deep in seriousness.

□

Quite possibly the reporter tossed off his judgment without even consulting Barenboim. As a newscaster once myself, I know how tempting it is to pass judgments on famous people.

At first thought it seems flattering, the way words like "hard-nosed" and "tough-minded" seem flattering when applied to certain Washingtonians who might just as sensibly be called "bestial" and "bloodthirsty" but for the reporter's need to have them return his phone calls.

I once myself wrote the same judgment — "does not suffer fools gladly" — about Dean Acheson, a famous American statesman of the mid-20th century. It seemed a flattering thing to say. It is hard to say why. Later I thought Acheson, a man of deeply subtle humor, must have taken a perverse joy in them because of the rich variety of clownishness with which the congressional Republicans constantly denounced him as a parrot-pink sofie at the same time he was erecting the framework for the 50-year Cold War that was to put Karl Marx out of business in Russia.

It was time for more pills. It was time for more pills.

New York Times Service

POSTCARD

In New York, the War of the Restaurant Guides

By Florence Fabricant
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Tim Zagat is not an easy man to challenge. The publisher of the Zagat Survey has an imposing physique, and his guide to New York City restaurants dominates the field with sales of almost a half million copies a year.

But now there is a new guide in town. Marcellino Hudalla, a German who has been publishing Marcellino's Restaurant Report in Germany since 1988, has introduced Marcellino's Restaurant Report for New York City. The pocket-size guide went on sale this week for \$9.95.

Zagat is not pleased. He had been feeling upbeat because his 1996 guide, now available for \$11.95, shows that for the first time since 1987, New Yorkers are dining out more and spending more. Then along comes this interloper. "There are plenty of

other guides, and that's fine, but these people have come in and are getting a lot of publicity by saying they are challenging us," Zagat said. "They've ripped off our format. They copied our typos. They even tell people who fill out the forms to be witty, a word we use."

But Marcellino's Restaurant Report cannot be ignored. It is the first competitor whose ratings are based on hundreds of questionnaires completed by restaurant customers, just as Zagat's are, instead of evaluations by professionals.

Like Zagat, Hudalla, a former printer and magazine writer, started out by preparing an informal list of restaurants for friends, who added their own critical comments. That was in 1986.

Two years ago Hudalla approached Zagat about working together in the United States, where Zagat and his wife, Nina, publish more than 30 guides, and in Eu-

rope, where Hudalla now has 25 guides. Zagat was not interested.

"I thought there was an opportunity for me to do my guides here," Hudalla said. "We sell 285,000 guides in all of Germany, which is a joke in comparison with Zagat. But there is a very big market here."

He has printed 50,000 copies of the New York guide and plans to add guides to Atlanta, Chicago and San Francisco next year.

Hudalla said his guide has features that Zagat lacks. "Our guide is organized primarily by neighborhoods, not just alphabetically," he said. "That is how we think people choose a restaurant in New York."

"We also list the top 10 restaurants in four price categories because on everyone's pocket is filled with the same money. And we have included maps and pictures. We did not think it was necessary for a restaurant guide to be ugly."

Marcellino's Restaurant Report will probably dampen Hong Kong, particularly on Saturday. Rain will push through southern China.

"The prince does not have a lover, and more to the point, she doesn't need one. She says she can survive very nicely on her own." The confidante continued that each time Diana strikes up a relationship with a member of the opposite sex, "it ends up in sin, tears and immundo."

SHE was adored by Dames the moment she arrived. Now Alexandra Manley is one of them. Parliament has granted Danish citizenship to the Hong Kong-born fiancée of Prince Joachim. Manley and her fiancé, second in line to the Danish throne, will exchange vows Nov. 18 in Denmark's first royal wedding in nearly three decades. Manley has renounced her British citizenship. In addition to her native English, she speaks three other languages, including Cantonese. She is learning Danish. Manley, an elegant dresser, already is being compared to other royalty. The Danish media are fawning over her and have quoted Liz Tilberis, the editor of the American fashion magazine Bazaar, as likening her to Britain's Princess Diana. Tilberis added, "Her smile can melt snow.... Speaking of Diana, the princess wants no more scandals and has therefore decided to lead a celibate life, according to a confidante quoted in the Daily Mirror. "The princess does not have a lover, and more to the point, she doesn't need one. She says she can survive very nicely on her own." The confidante continued that each time Diana strikes up a relationship with a member of the opposite sex, "it ends up in sin, tears and immundo."

A Paris court has ordered the French gossip magazine Voici to pay 50,000 francs (\$10,000) to the actress Catherine Deneuve for claiming that she had four prominent fellow stars. In a Jan. 23 article, the magazine said Deneuve, detected Brigitte Bardot, Elizabeth Taylor, Isabelle Adjani and the singer Françoise Hardy. The court ruled that the comments were defamatory and ordered the magazine and its director, Axel Ganz, to pay damages and interest to Deneuve.

The American director Elia Kazan, 86, famous for films like "A Streetcar Named Desire," will receive a Golden Bear, the top prize of the Berlin Film Festival, in February, festival organizers said.

Julia Child, who popularized French cooking in the United States, and more than 150 other cooking experts are in Paris for a week of eating, drinking and talking about it. Apart from being a pig-out for writers, restaurateurs and teachers, this is the first time the 2,500-member International Association of Culinary Professionals has

PEOPLE



The veteran Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni taking a stroll in Venice prior to his return to the stage in the comedy "Le ultime lune."

held an annual meeting in the capital of gastronomy. "This is our great foodie bash of the year," said Ethel Hofman of Merion Station, Pennsylvania, the association's president.

The Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni is to return to the stage on Friday, in the role of a professor contemplating retirement in an old people's home, after an eight-year absence from the theater. Mastroianni, 70, is to star in "Le ultime lune" ("The Last Month") by Furio Bordon, directed by Giulio Borsellini.

Back in the clink again: Two months after his release from jail for weapons possession, the rap performer Flavor Flav was behind bars on gun and crack charges. The rapper — real name William Drayton — was arrested by police randomly stopping livery cabs. When the officers asked Flav to get out of a cab, he allegedly reached toward his waistband. Officers then searched him and found an automatic weapon in his belt and three vials of crack in a pocket, police said. The 36-year-old rapper, a longtime member of the group Public Enemy, has a history of arrests dating from 1991.

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